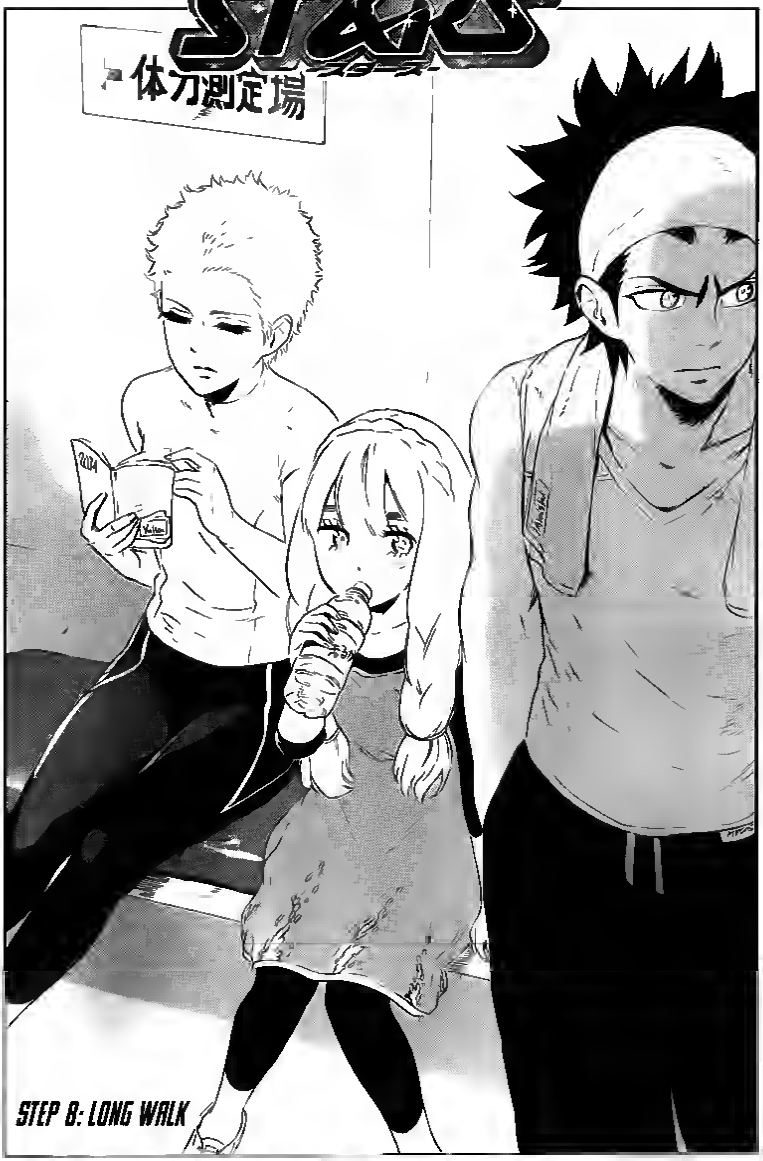
ST&RS

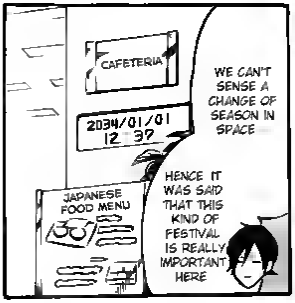


DAY AFTER DAY OF EXAMINATIONS! FACING THE CHALLENGES WITH A COMPOSED SELF —— THAT'S THE KEY TO BRING OUT ONE'S TRUE STRENGTH!!

STEP 8: LONG WALK

STORY: TAKEUCHI RYOSUKE ART: MIYOKAWA MASARU

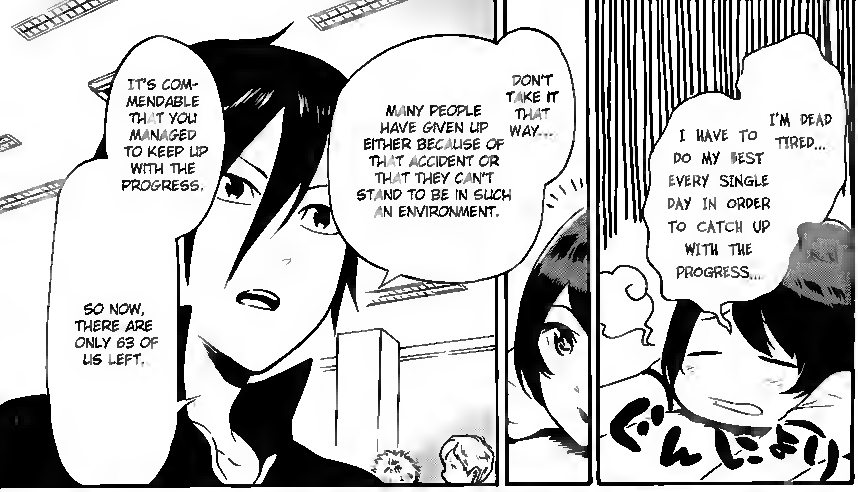
うにゃん
RICE... RICE-CAKE SOUP...!!
AFTER THE ACCIDENT ON THE MOON'S SURFACE, EVERYTHING RETURNED TO THE STATE OF PEACEFULNESS.

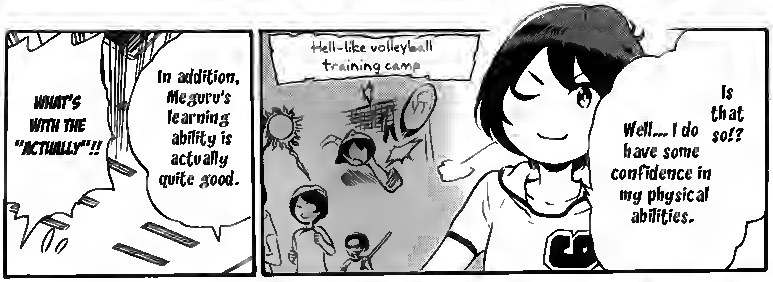

CAFETERIA
2034/01/01 12 32
JAPANESE FOOD MENU
WE CAN'T SENSE A CHANGE OF SEASON IN SPACE
HENCE IT WAS SAID THAT THIS KIND OF FESTIVAL IS REALLY IMPORTANT HERE

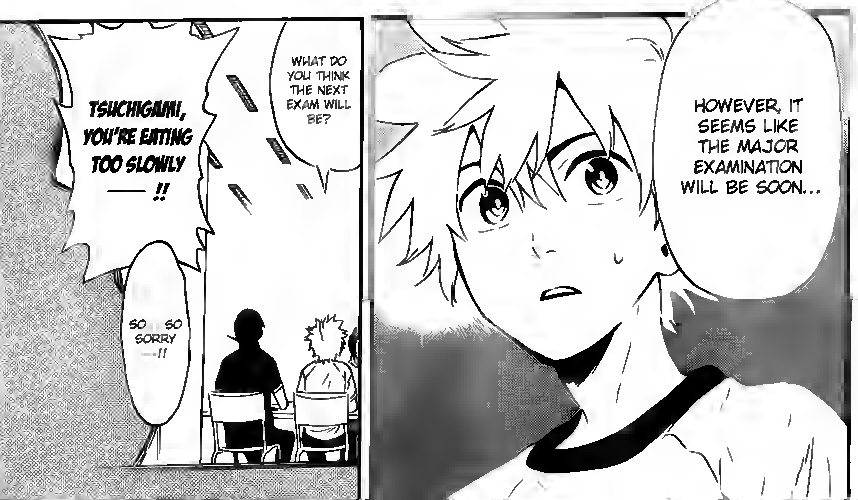
AFTER THE ACCIDENT ON THE MOON'S SURFACE EVERYTHING RETURNED TO THE STATE OF PEACEFULNESS
AHH, ARE YOU AFRAID OF CONSTIPATION?
YOU'RE SO WRONG!!
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT "ONE WEEK HAD ALREADY PASSED~" !!

HAPPY NEW YEAR. I WONDER HOW THE "RED AND WHITE SONG BATTLE" IS GOING
I SEE~! HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU!

WE HAVE BEEN GOING THROUGH NOTHING BUT WRITTEN AND PHYSICAL EXAMS AFTER THAT INCIDENT..
AHHH~~~~~~~~
66

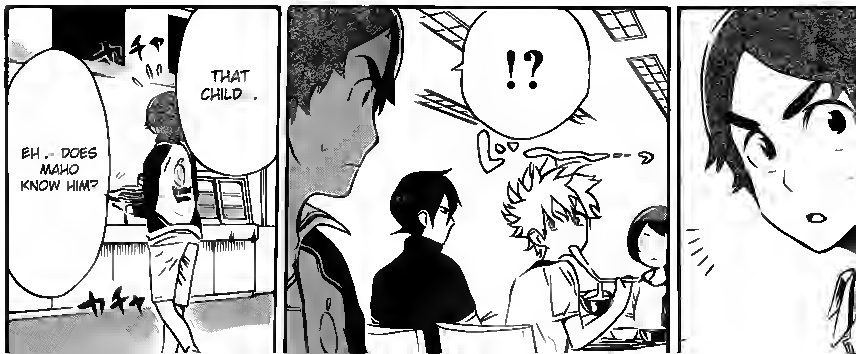

I'M DEAD TIRED...
I HAVE TO DO MY BEST EVERY SINGLE DAY IN ORDER TO CATCH UP WITH THE PROGRESS...
どんより
DON'T TAKE IT THAT WAY...
MANY PEOPLE HAVE GIVEN UP EITHER BECAUSE OF THAT ACCIDENT OR THAT THEY CAN'T STAND TO BE IN SUCH AN ENVIRONMENT.
IT'S COMMENDABLE THAT YOU MANAGED TO KEEP UP WITH THE PROGRESS.
SO NOW, THERE ARE ONLY 63 OF US LEFT.


Is that so!?
Well... I do have some confidence in my physical abilities.
Hell-like volleyball training camp
In addition, Megumi's learning ability is actually quite good.
WHAT'S WITH THE "ACTUALLY"!!


HOWEVER, IT SEEMS LIKE THE MAJOR EXAMINATION WILL BE SOON...
WHAT DO YOU THINK THE NEXT EXAM WILL BE?
TSUCHIGAMI, YOU'RE EATING TOO SLOWLY ——!!
SO... SO SORRY ——!!

JEEZ. WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING IF WE FOLLOW YOUR PACE
HURRY UP AND FINISH YOUR FOOD...!
WE'LL GET GOING FIRST CLEAN UP THE PLACE WHEN YOU'RE DONE!
O... OKAY. I'M REALLY SORRY!!

WH. WHAT'S WITH THOSE GUYS? THEY'RE MEAN
Such people are still around?
IN SUCH A PLACE... IT SEEMS LIKE THEY DON'T HAVE A SENSE OF TEAM WORK AT ALL.


THAT CHILD.
!?
EH. DOES MAHO KNOW HIM?

HE'S ALWAYS THE LAST ONE TO REMAIN IN THE SELF-STUDY ROOM
HH
FUU..
T/N: TRADITIONAL JAPANESE NEW YEAR FOOD
I WONDER...
IF EVERYONE IS EATING OSECHI* NOW...
EVERY-ONE?
Do you mean your friends?
UWA AHH!?

わわ
THE SCORES I'VE GOTTEN FOR MY WRITTEN EXAMS ARE NOT QUITE THERE YET...
SHIRAFUNE REALLY HAS TO WORK HARDER...
わわ
……?
YOU'RE RIGHT — BUT I DIDN'T THINK THAT MAHO WILL COME HERE TO DO SELF-STUDY.
THERE... I TOLD YOU THAT HE WILL DEFINITELY BE HERE TODAY AS WELL!
H.. HMM...
DO YOU NEED SOMETHING FROM ME?

Eh
I WONDER WHAT IT IS?
..... WHAT IS IT...
So I thought maybe we can become friends.
That's all.
WELL, IT'S ACTUALLY NOTHING IN PARTICULAR...
I ALWAYS SEE YOU STUDYING IN THIS PLACE UNTIL YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT.
THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU REALLY WANT TO BECOME AN ASTRONAUT...
Well I'm the same as well
SEIUN J H

I... I'm Tsuchigami Souta!
.....!
LOOK HE'S TROUBLED BY YOUR WORDS!
SMACK
OUCH
HM... ABOUT THAT...
YE...YEAH.
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO OPERATED THE R1 DURING THE ACCIDENT ON THE MOON'S SURFACE!?
EHH!!
And I'm Shirafune Maho!
Despite so... I still want to become an astronaut no matter what!!
For the sake of everyone on the Island!!
I WAS JUST LUCKY! I WAS ABLE TO DO MY BEST WITH EVERYONE'S SUPPORT.
THAT'S... AMAZING...
SO I'M ALWAYS CREATING TROUBLE FOR MY TEAM MEMBERS...
I... I'M KIND OF SLOW AND TACTLESS

... ISLAND?
THAT'S RIGHT.
I LIVE ON A RURAL ISLAND THAT HAS NOTHING ON IT AT ALL...
HOWEVER, YOU CAN SEE REALLY BEAUTIFUL STARS IN THE SKY WHEN THE NIGHT FALLS!
I WAS ALWAYS OUT IN THE NIGHT AS I HAVE TO HELP MY FAMILY DO SOME WORK...
AND THEN, I STARTED TO WONDER
HOW DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO LEAVE THIS SMALL ISLAND AND SOAR FREELY AMONG THE SEA OF STARS ---

NEXT YEAR... DO YOU MEAN THE MINAMI AWA ISLAND?
Ohh!
YE.. YES.
STARS ロケット打ち上げ 建設予定地
UNTIL RECENTLY, ALL THESE WERE MERELY THOUGHTS I HAD IN MY MIND.
BUT STARS HAS DECIDED TO SET UP A ROCKET LAUNCHING SITE ON MY ISLAND NEXT YEAR.
HENCE, I DEFINITELY HAVE TO PASS THE EXAM.
IN THAT WAY, BIG HOSPITALS AND MANY SHIPS WILL MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE ISLAND. IT WILL MAKE LIFE MORE CONVENIENT FOR THE ISLANDERS
AH.. WHAT A GOOD CHILD——!
EVERYONE ON THE ISLAND WAS REALLY EXCITED OVER THIS
I ENTERED THE SELECTION EXAMINATION BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT BY BECOMING AN ASTRONAUT, I CAN HELP THE ISLAND TO BECOME MORE FAMOUS.
AH...
HAITANI-KUN...
KUGA-KUN...!
I'M...
OI TSUCHI-GAMI!!
AS FOR MAHO... I DOUBT THAT WE CAN RELY ON HIM.
In that case, let's all do our very best! Right? Amachi-kun!
EHH

HEY YOU DON'T YOU THINK THAT YOUR WORDS WERE REALLY MEAN?
HAR?
YOU...
DIDN'T I SAY THAT THERE IS A MEETING TODAY!!
I'M SO SORRY! I WILL GO BACK IMMEDIATELY
REALLY! WHAT A USELESS BRAT.
! THAT'S THE ONE WHO GOT THE SECOND PLACE IN THE EXAM
HE'S THE ONE WHO RESCUED THE EXAMINERS!?
THAT TOOK PLACE ON THE MOON...
THAT'S IT!! I'VE JUST THOUGHT OF A GREAT IDEA, TSUCHIGAMI!!
WHY DON'T YOU TRY TO DIE FOR THE NEXT EXAM?
EH...
TH... THAT IS...
IN THAT WAY, THE BOTH OF US CAN SAVE HIM TOO ——
THAT'S A JOKE!!
Don't you know that astronauts need to have a sense of humour as well!!
HURRY UP AND COME OVER!
HU ... HUMOUR? THIS IS NOT FUNNY AT ALL ..
RIGHT...

I.. I'M SORRY I... WILL GET GOING NOW
!!
AH... IT'S THE FIRST TIME I SEE AMACHI-KUN SO MAD...
Scary...

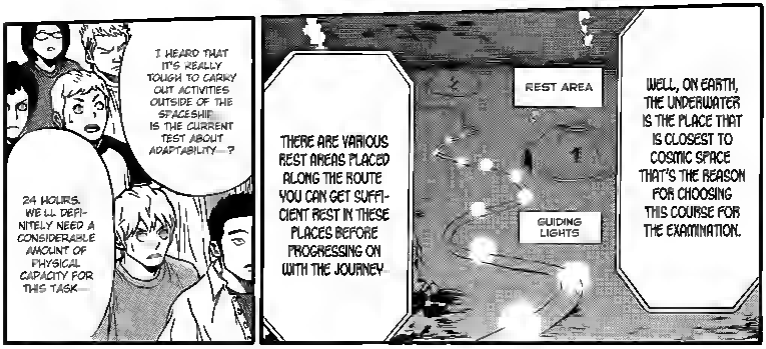
I CAN'T EVEN LAUGH.

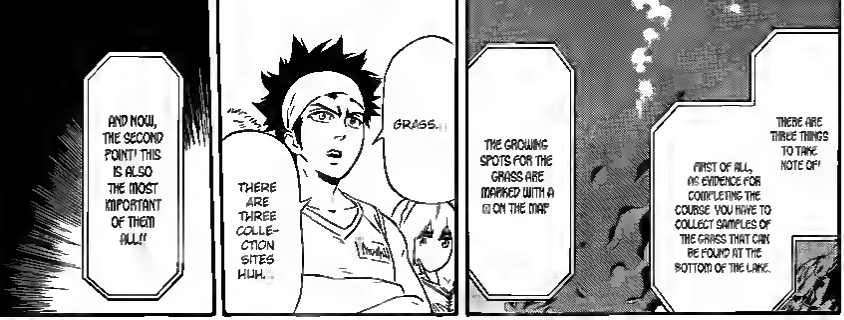
HMM~~

THE NEXT DAY
JANUARY 2
9:00 AM
TOMORROW?
THE CONTENT WILL BE ——
WELL THEN, I WILL GIVE SOME EXPLANATIONS ON THE EXAMS THAT WILL TAKE PLACE "TODAY" AND "TOMORROW".
I SUPPOSE EVERYONE IS HERE BY NOW

TOTAL DISTANCE: 50KM
TIME LIMIT: 24 HOURS
TO WEAR A SPACESUIT AND TRAVEL AROUND THE BOTTOM OF THE SUBTERRANEAN LAKE BY FOOT.
IT'S A 24-HOUR LONG WALK IN A SIMULATED SPACE!!
GOAL
START
MONOLITH

SIMULATED SPACE.....?
BOTTOM OF THE LAKE?
!!


I HEARD THAT IT'S REALLY TOUGH TO CARRY OUT ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE SPACESHIP. IS THE CURRENT TEST ABOUT ADAPTABILITY—?
24 HOURS. WE'LL DEFINITELY NEED A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF PHYSICAL CAPACITY FOR THIS TASK—
THERE ARE VARIOUS REST AREAS PLACED ALONG THE ROUTE YOU CAN GET SUFFICIENT REST IN THESE PLACES BEFORE PROGRESSING ON WITH THE JOURNEY.
REST AREA
GUIDING LIGHTS
WELL, ON EARTH, THE UNDERWATER IS THE PLACE THAT IS CLOSEST TO COSMIC SPACE. THAT'S THE REASON FOR CHOOSING THIS COURSE FOR THE EXAMINATION.


THERE ARE THREE THINGS TO TAKE NOTE OF!
FIRST OF ALL, AS EVIDENCE FOR COMPLETING THE COURSE YOU HAVE TO COLLECT SAMPLES OF THE GRASS THAT CAN BE FOUND AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKE.
THE GROWING SPOTS FOR THE GRASS ARE MARKED WITH A ⊡ ON THE MAP.
GRASS...
THERE ARE THREE COLLECTION SITES HUH...
AND NOW, THE SECOND POINT! THIS IS ALSO THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THEM ALL!!

HENCE, IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN THE SAFETY OF ALL TEST-TAKERS
AS THE EXAM WILL BE TAKING PLACE IN THE VAST SUBTERRANEAN LAKE, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO MONITOR ALL OF YOU CLOSELY!
I URGE ALL OF YOU TO PUT ON THIS SONIC WAVE COMMUNICATION DEVICE!

COMMUNICATION DEVICE...?
WE WILL ASK ABOUT YOUR "SAFETY" IF WE NOTICE NO SIGN OF MOVEMENT AFTER MORE THAN "30 SECONDS"
IF THERE IS NO REPLY, WE WILL ASSUME THAT YOU ARE IN DANGER AND HAVE TO BE RESCUED IMMEDIATELY.

UNDER SUCH A CIRCUMSTANCE, THE ENTIRE TEST WILL BE TERMINATED BY FORCE.
IN DANGER. IS THE TEST GOING TO BE THAT HARD?
30 SECONDS AND YOU'RE OUT...
THE LAST POINT IS THAT... THIS EXAM WILL BE DONE INDIVIDUALLY!
THE TIME YOU TAKE TO COMPLETE THE GOAL WILL ALSO BE PART OF YOUR RESULTS.
DESPITE SO, IT'S UP TO YOU TO DECIDE IF YOU WANT TO COLLABORATE WITH OTHERS. TO PREVENT CONFUSION AT THE STARTING POINT YOU GUYS WILL BE DISPATCHED IN GROUPS.

YOU! JAPANESE...!
SO LET'S JUST STAY TOGETHER!!
WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S AWAITING US
THAT'S RIGHT!
EHH-! AN INDIVIDUAL TEST AFTER WE HAVE REACHED THIS POINT...?
I... I...
IT'S POSSIBLE TO CATCH UP IN ONE GO WITH THIS!!
INDIVIDUAL TEST !?
THAT MEANS THAT WE NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT OUR TEAMS AT ALL!!

For this individual test... I will definitely surpass you!!
FUKAMI! LET'S FIGHT IT OUT!!
THIS TEST... MAYBE IT WILL BE BETTER IF WE PREPARE FOR IT CAREFULLY.
WHAT ARE YOU WORRYING ABOUT?
GRASS... 30 SECONDS... INDIVIDUAL TEST... THAT'S WEIRD...
FU-KAMI...?
WE'RE FOLLOWING FUKAMI'S PACE AGAIN...
AH!
LISTEN UP MARKA, YURIA! THE THREE OF US BELONG TO A TEAM!!
YEAH!!
更衣室
ALRIGHT LET'S GET CHANGED AS WELL!!
LOOK... JUST LIKE THIS...

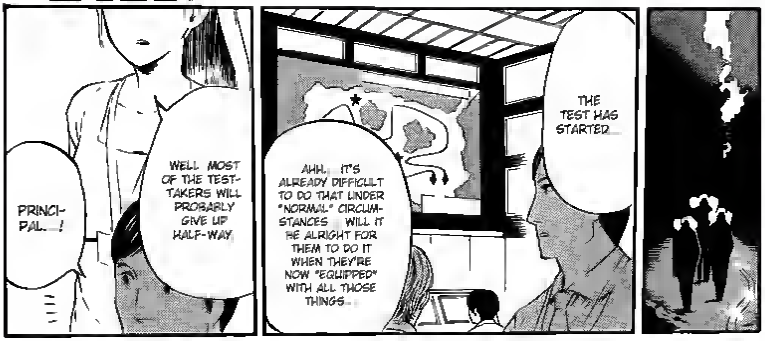
OHHH~
~~~~!!
My first time wearing a spacesuit!!
STARS

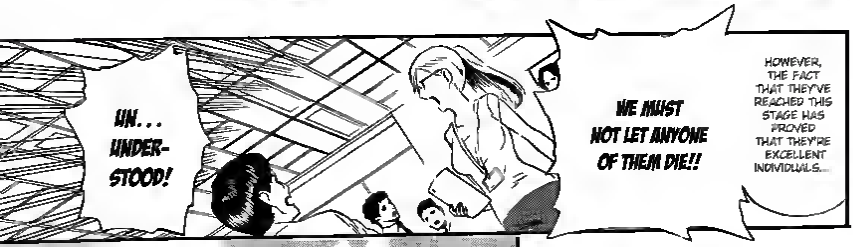
THEY'RE PICKING ON TSUCHIGA-MI-KUN AGAIN...!
.....
Oi TSUCHIGAMI!
I'm sorry!
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO START IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP AND COME OVER!!
It's so cool! The both of you must work hard too, alright!!
WHAT'S WITH THE CAREFREE ATTITUDE !? CAN'T YOU BE A LITTLE MORE SERIOUS!?
.....
~~~~

ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
0:00 PM
WELL THEN,I WILL BECALLING A TEAM TO THE STARTING POINT EVERY 15 MINUTES!
TEAM NANASAKI!
HERE!

WE'LL BE GOING FIRST!
YEAH!
NEXT,
TEAM FUKAMI!
ПОНЯТНО (ROGER!)
LET'S GO.
HERE!

TEAM AMACHI!
IT'S SERIOUSLY DARK IN HERE... SO SCARY...
.....
ALRIGHT LET'S GET GOING!
YEAH!
O... OKAY!
H!
7!
0.0


PRINCI-
PAL...!
WELL MOST OF THE TEST-TAKERS WILL PROBABLY GIVE UP HALF-WAY.
AHH... IT'S ALREADY DIFFICULT TO DO THAT UNDER "NORMAL" CIRCUM-STANCES... WILL IT BE ALRIGHT FOR THEM TO DO IT WHEN THEY'RE NOW "EQUIPPED" WITH ALL THOSE THINGS...
THE TEST HAS STARTED...


UN... UNDER-STOOD!
WE MUST NOT LET ANYONE OF THEM DIE!!
HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT THEY'VE REACHED THIS STAGE HAS PROVED THAT THEY'RE EXCELLENT INDIVIDUALS...

ST&RS-スターズ- 第8歩／おわり

Clockwork Lies
Muda Scantrad
RAW Vicissitude
TRANSLATOR -ALT-
PRS DarkStar, Tau
CLEANER [illegible], Aqua
TYPESETTERS [illegible], [illegible]
QC [illegible]
STARS
HTTP://CLOCKWORKLIES.COM #CW-LIES@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET
HTTP://MUDASCANTRAD.COM #MUDA-SCANLATIONS@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET

STORY: TAKEUCHI RYOSUKE

ART: MIYOKAWA MASARU

TILL THE DAY HE CATCHES THE STAR OF HOPE ——.

STEP 9: A LIE

ADVANCING INTO THE UNDERWA-TER...!!
IT'S REALLY DARK . AND QUIET HERE...
WE'LL PROBABLY BE IN HUGE TROUBLE IF WE DEVIATE FROM THE PATH, RIGHT . MAHO?
OI...! ARE YOU LISTENING?
AH? YEAH.
REALLY~~~ DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT! YOU HAVE TO REPLY ME IMMEDIATELY!
MY BAD!
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT... ALTHOUGH THIS IS A SIMULATED SPACE, I CAN'T SEEM TO GET MUCH MOTIVATION IF THERE ARE NO STARS AROUND ~~~

I GUESS SO... WELL, THIS IS UNDERWATER AFTER ALL...
COME AND TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
THE TOTAL DISTANCE WE HAVE TO COVER IS 50KM... 20 MINUTES HAVE ALREADY PASSED SINCE THE START OF THE TEST.
IF THERE ARE NO ACCIDENTS WE SHOULD HAVE 440 MINUTES LEFT
WITH OUR PACE WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO COVER 72KM.
THAT MEANS WE HAVE SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 7 HOURS OF RESTING TIME!
SEEMS LIKE WE'RE AT THE 1KM MARK NOW
AH, THAT'S RIGHT!
HAA —— ALTHOUGH I'D EXPECTED THAT WE'D EXPERIENCE SOME WALKING DIFFICULTIES, I DIDN'T THINK THAT IT'D BE THAT TIME CONSUMING.
AS EXPECTED OF AMACHI-KUN! IT SEEMS LIKE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THE 50KM WALK IF WE DON'T MAINTAIN OUR PACE
THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH RIGHT FROM THE START. LET'S TRY TO FIND A SUITABLE PACE ALONG THE WAY!
Yeah!
.....
THE FIRST COLLECTION SITE FOR THE UNDERWATER GRASS SHOULD BE AROUND HERE.
Okay, let's find it!
I KNOW!
HAHO! DON'T GO TOO FAR AWAY FROM ME!
!

SP-511
SP-511 THAT'S RIGHT, THIS IS IT.
Found it!!
It's this, isn't it?
!
ALONE?
WHERE ARE YOUR TWO TEAM-MATES..?
YO... YOU GUYS!
AH...
TSUCHIGAMI-KUN!
SORRY ABOUT THAT BUT WE'LL LEAVE YOU BEHIND IF YOU CAN'T CATCH UP
EH
FOR OUR TEAM, WE WILL BE PROGRESSING INDIVIDUALLY! WE HAVE TO DO THAT IF WE WANT TO MAKE A TURNAROUND!
AH.. HMM, I GOT LEFT BEHIND..

Listen up! We don't have the margin to take care of others!
.....
THE BOTH OF US... AS WELL AS YOU! IT WILL BE THE END OF US IF WE DON'T GET THE FIRST PLACE IN THIS EXAM!
!!
E... END...!?
EVERYTHING WILL END IF WE CAN'T GET THE FIRST PLACE... THAT MEANS THAT I CAN'T BECOME AN ASTRONAUT——...!?
WELL, JUST CATCH UP WITH US IF YOU THINK YOU CAN DO THAT!
THOSE TWO JERKS... THEY'RE ONLY THINKING ABOUT THEMSELVES!!
IT'S... IT'S ALRIGHT!
WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, THIS IS AN INDIVIDUAL EXAM.
I... I'VE ALWAYS BEEN STANDING IN THEIR WAY...
BUT... BUT WON'T YOU FEEL UNEASY IF YOU'RE ALONE...?
TSUCHIGAMI-KUN!
Come with us!!
There's no rule saying that you can't work with other teams, right!!

AHH...
ALRIGHT! WE'LL DO THAT!
MEGURU IS REALLY NERVOUS, SO IT'S GREAT TO HAVE ANOTHER FRIEND WITH US IT'S DECIDED THEN!
WH... WHEN DID I SAY THAT I AM SCARED!
I'M SURE YOU SAID THAT.
A... ABOUT THAT... IS IT REALLY ALRIGHT FOR A PERSON LIKE ME TO FOLLOW...

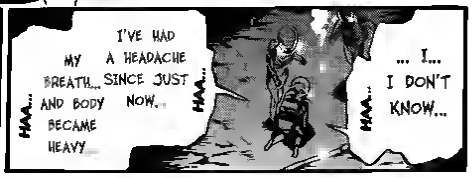
THIS IS JUST LIKE A MARATHON
MA... MARATHON?
IT'S NATURAL FOR PEOPLE TO FORM GROUPS IN COMPETITIONS..
EVEN IF THEY'RE COMPETITORS, THEY WILL ACT AS SAFE HAVENS FOR EACH OTHER - SHARE WATER, URGE EVERYONE TO KEEP UP THE PACE..
IF THE PACE IS TOO FAST RIGHT FROM THE START, IT'S EXPECTED THAT THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO ENDURE TILL THE END
HENCE, YOU NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT IT WE FEEL MORE AT EASE WITH ANOTHER COMPANION TOO, SO LET'S PROCEED TOGETHER.
YE...YES! I'LL BE DEPENDING ON ALL OF YOU!!
AT THE SAME TIME, TEAM FUKAMI IS...

ゴボ…
ハア…ハア…
MARKA…!?
WHAT'S WRONG!?
HAA…
HAA…

IT'LL BE DOWNHILL FROM HERE ON. PAY ATTENTION TO WHERE YOU'RE STEPPING. LET'S GO!!
UNDERSTOOD.

…?
HA… HA…

ARE YOU ALRIGHT? CAN YOU STILL WALK?
UH… YEAH…
LET'S GO… I CAN STILL WALK!
HAA…


I'VE HAD A HEADACHE SINCE JUST NOW…
MY BREATH… AND BODY BECAME HEAVY…
… I… I DON'T KNOW…
HAA…
HAA…

WE WANT TO CONTINUE WITH THE WALK!
YE… YES. WE'RE ALRIGHT!
HAA…
MARKA…

I AM CALLING FROM STARS. THE THREE OF YOU HAVE BEEN IN THE SAME PLACE FOR MORE THAN 30 SECONDS.
BEEP
!!
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING AT SUCH A TIME…
IS IT BECAUSE OUR PACE WAS TOO FAST…?

I WILL NEVER DO THAT! ESPECIALLY IN SUCH A PLACE...!
NO... NO! NO WAY!
DO YOU WANT TO RESIGN...?
MARKA!!
MARKA...
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO YOU, I...!!
YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE NOT ON LAND, BUT UNDERWATER!
HOWEVER...
I WILL ONLY ALLOW YOU TO RESIGN IF THERE AREN'T ANY POSSIBILITIES LEFT!
!!
FUKAMI! YOU THINK SO TOO, DON'T YOU...!
YEAH...
AND... THIS IS NOT A REAL MISSION... IT'S JUST AN EXAM!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RISK YOUR LIFE TO CONTINUE WITH IT, RIGHT!?

DON'T GIVE UP!! IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BECOME AN ASTRONAUT, YOU HAVE TO HOLD ON UNTIL THE VERY LAST MOMENT!!
NO MATTER IF IT'S ON THE MOON OR UNDERWATER!!
.....!
YE.. YEAH...!!
I AM CALLING FROM STARS. YOU HAVE BEEN IN THE SAME PLACE FOR MORE THAN 30 SECONDS. IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?
BEEP
THERE'S A REST AREA NEARBY... HOLD ON UNTIL THEN!!
STARS
WHAT'S THE REMAINING NUMBER?
24 WITH "AIR"... AND 4 "WITHOUT AIR"
SO IT FINALLY BEGAN HUH, THE REAL TEST.
IT'S BEEN 5 HOURS...
BEEP
I AM CALLING FROM STARS YOU HAVE BEEN IN THE SAME PLACE FOR MORE THAN 30 SECONDS
BEEP
UNDERSTOOD. SO YOU'RE RESIGNING, RIGHT?
THE RESCUE TEAM WILL BE DISPATCHED RIGHT AWAY
HOWEVER... THE STUDENTS WOULD NEVER HAVE EXPECTED THIS.
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT——

RIGHT FROM THE START, THERE WAS ONE MEMBER FROM EACH TEAM... WITH INSUFFICIENT OXYGEN IN THE PRE-PREPARED TANKS ..
THE REAL EXAM STARTS RIGHT NOW!
YEAH .. THIS IS TO SEE HOW EACH OF THEM WILL COPE WITH SUCH A CRISIS ..
WHAT A TOUGH TEST ..
THAT'S ALSO THE REASON WHY YOU DISPATCHED THEM IN GROUPS EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE TOLD THAT IT WOULD BE AN INDIVIDUAL EXAM. .
HAA...
AMACHI-KUN...?
HAA...
HAA...
TSUCHIGAMI-KUN, SO THERE'S SUCH A TALL MOUNTAIN ON THE ISLAND YOU LIVE ON~~
THAT'S RIGHT BUT IF YOU MAKE YOUR WAY UP, YOU CAN A SEE STARLIT SKY THAT'S EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL
EH EVEN SO!~
NEXT TIME, LET'S ALL CLIMB UP THAT MOUNTAIN AND DO SOME ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS! RIGHT? AMACHI-KUN!

I. . I'M ALRIGHT. LET'S GET GOING .!
AMACHI-KUN? NOT FEELING WELL? YOU SEEM TO BE IN PAIN. .
WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING...?
O.. OKAY
YE... YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
LET'S GO FOR AN OBSERVATION DURING OUR SCHOOL BREAK.
WHAT'S THIS UNBEARABLE SENSATION ALL OF A SUDDEN ..? MY LEGS CAN'T MOVE ... MY CHEST IS PAINFUL ... AND MY HEAD IS HEAVY... WH.. ... AT SUCH A TIME ...
EH!! AMACHI-KUN, ARE YOU REALLY ALL RIGHT!?
YOU GUYS GO AHEAD FIRST
SO... SORRY . I THINK I WILL REST A LITTLE WHILE BEFORE PROCEEDING..
...GUH ... EVERYONE DROPPED THEIR PACE... IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE ME ... THIS IS AN INDIVIDUAL EXAM ... I MUSTN'T BE A DRAG TO THEM ...
AHH... I'M FINE, SO ——
AS LONG AS I RESIGN FROM THIS EXAM ——

MA... MAHO!?
A LIE...
YOU'RE LYING!! THAT WAS REALLY A BAD LIE! I BET YOU HAVE NEVER TOLD A LIE BEFORE, AMACHI-KUN!!
I... I WANT TO GO TO SPACE... WITH AMACHI-KUN AND MEGUMI!!
SO DON'T LIE TO US ANYMORE!!
DON'T LIE TO US!!
CA... CARRY HIM OVER!!
TO THE REST AREA!!
!!
PH... PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!!
I'M SORRY

ゴゴゴゴ
アアアア
HAA!!
HAA...
HAA...
HAA...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
AMACHI-KUN!
HAA...
HAA...
BEEP
THANKS GUYS...
... DON'T WORRY... I'M AL-RIGHT...
.....

That's right! That would be a great idea!!
WELL, WE SHOULD BE AHEAD OF THE EXPECTED TIME SINCE WE'VE BEEN WALKING THE ENTIRE TIME!
FOR NOW, LET'S JUST REST HERE UNTIL AMACHI-KUN'S CONDITION GETS BETTER
NO...
AH... HMM, WE'RE IN THE REST AREA NOW... YES THERE'RE FOUR OF US HERE!
HOSHI-HARA... SHI-RAPUNE..
.....
EH? WE'RE FINE! WE WON'T BE RESIGNING!
.....?
MY BREATHING IS BACK TO NORMAL
AND I DON'T HAVE A HEADACHE ANYMORE...
EH... BUT
IT'S NOT THAT.. LOOK
THERE'S NO NEED TO REST.
... JUST NOW, YOU GUYS WERE SAYING THAT IT'S EASIER TO SEE STARS FROM A MOUNTAIN TOP RIGHT?
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, YOU ALSO EXPERIENCE HEADACHES AND BREATHING DIFFICULTIES.
WHY...?
E... EH? THAT'S TRUE.

THAT'S BECAUSE AIR BECOMES THINNER UP THERE...
NATURALLY, YOU'LL GET BETTER WHEN YOU GET DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN ——!!
.....!?
SHIRAFUNE... FETCH ME THE MANOMETER.
AMACHI-KUN'S TANKS...?
.....
AS I THOUGHT...
THERE'S ALMOST NO AIR LEFT INSIDE MY TANKS..!!
EH!?
WHY...? DID THEY MAKE A MISTAKE WHEN THEY DISTRIBUTED THE TANKS? WE HAVE TO INFORM THEM ABOUT THAT!
NO... I'M SURE THAT THEY CHECKED THEM BEFORE THE START OF THE EXAM. THERE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANY PROBLEMS AT THAT TIME
IN OTHER WORDS...

THIS MIGHT ACTUALLY BE PART OF THE EXAM.
!!
THIS... THIS MEANS THAT THERE WASN'T ANY AIR IN IT RIGHT FROM THE START!?
OH
WH WHAT'S WITH THAT, MAHO...
.....IT'S JUST THAT WE ALWAYS READ ABOUT SIMILAR THINGS IN THE AUTOBIOGRAPHIES OF THE ASTRONAUTS...
THE EXAMINERS COME UP WITH SOMETHING THAT STANDS IN THE STUDENTS' WAY AND THROUGH THAT, THEY OBSERVE HOW EACH OF THEM CLEARS THE OBSTACLE!
WE'RE GOING THROUGH SOMETHING SIMILAR RIGHT?
I SEE .. TELLING US TO WORK HARD FOR THE INDIVIDUAL EXAM WAS PROBABLY A TACTIC TO DISRUPT OUR TEAMWORK...
~~~~UGH!! AND THEY CALLED THIS AN EXAM? THIS IS TOO DANGEROUS...
THAT'S WHY THEY WILL CONTACT YOU IMMEDIATELY IF YOU STOP MOVING FOR 30 SECONDS
THAT IS THE MEASURE THEY CAME UP WITH IN RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE ACCIDENTS
~~~~

There must be a way for everyone to reach the ending point together!!
EVEN IF THIS IS AN EXAM... AH~~ THAT SERIOUSLY PISSES PEOPLE OFF!!
SUCH... SUCH A THING... THEY'RE REALLY TOO MUCH!!
HOWEVER, IF THIS IS PART OF THE EXAM...
IS... IS THAT SO... I GUESS THAT'S RIGHT! IF SUCH A THING REALLY HAPPENED IN SPACE
.....!
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TO THINK OF A WAY TO PREVENT AMACHI-KUN FROM DYING!
DIE!?
I, I GUESS SO...
ALRIGHT FOR NOW LET ME TAKE A LOOK AT THE MANUALS FOR THE SPACESUITS AND TANKS
I WILL SEARCH OVER HERE TO SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHING WE CAN USE!
.....
GUYS... EARLIER ON...

!!
IF ONLY I'D RE-SIGNED
EARLIER ON...
THANKS FOR.. NOT DESERTING ME..
What are you talking about? It's obvious that we have done that, isn't it!?
THAT'S RIGHT! WITHOUT YOU, WE CAN'T KEEP OUR PACE UP AND MIGHT JUST USE UP ALL THE AIR IN OUR TANKS IMMEDIATELY..
... AH, ALL RIGHT. THANKS.
THERE'S A WAY TO CONNECT WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S TANKS ...!!
!!
GOT IT...!
AND MAHO MIGHT JUST DEVIATE FROM THE ROUTE IF HE WALKS ALONE
EHH...!
!

CONNECTING... THE TANKS!?
YEAH. WE CAN DIVIDE THE REMAINING AIR UP EQUALLY!
BUT I'M STILL NOT VERY CERTAIN ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF OXYGEN WE NEED TO REACH THE ENDING POINT... LET ME DO SOME CALCULATIONS!!
.....
.....IT'S JUST ENOUGH..!
WE CAN'T REST! IF WE TRAVEL CONTINUOUSLY AND SLOWLY DAY AND NIGHT... REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF OXYGEN WE NEED TO THE LOWEST...
THAT'S RIGHT...! IT'S FEASIBLE...!!
WE CAN DEFINITELY DO IT~~ ~~!!!
If we divide 4 people's oxygen up equally...!
BUT RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE 4 PEOPLE, DON'T WE..?
HEY... THAT'S IF WE HAVE 3 PEOPLE RIGHT?
That's great -!!
Let's prepare for that immediately!
THE PATH AHEAD HAS COME INTO SIGHT... BUT...!?
ST&RS-スターズ-
STEP 9 /END.

Clockwork Lies
Muda Scantrad
RAW
Viscisitude
TRANSLATOR
-AUT
PR
Pendorizzle
CLEANERS
God Junior, Zuzan
TYPESETTER
BlaZin
QC
Kiba
STARS
HTTP://CLOCKWORKLIES.COM #CW-LIES@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET
HTTP://MUDASCANTRAD.COM #MUDA-SCANLATIONS@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET

ST&RS

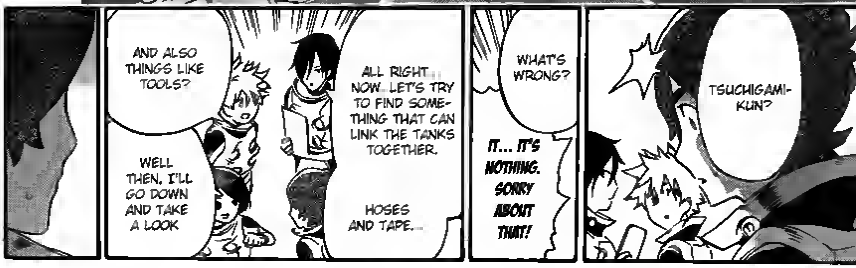
A STRONG DESIRE TO BECOME AN ASTRONAUT... A BURNING DESIRE ——

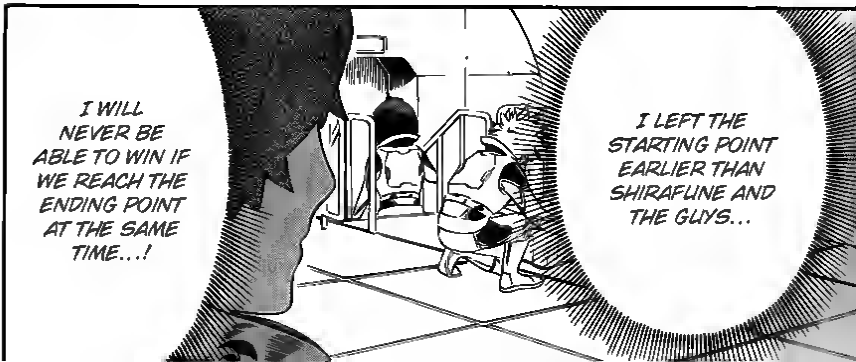
STORY: TAKEUCHI RYOUSUKE ART: MIYOKAWA MASARU

A STRATEGY WAS DISCOVERED!!
"SHAKE THE AIR"!!
Yeah!!
WE CAN DO THAT!!
WE CAN...
THAT'S RIGHT.
ISN'T THAT SO, AMACHI-KUN?
ALSO, THERE ARE 4 OF US, WHICH MEANS THAT WE HAVE AN ADDITIONAL SHARE OF AIR..
OHH —!
BUT AT LEAST, THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT WE'LL REACH THE ENDING POINT!
WE WOULD HAVE TO PROGRESS CONTINUOUSLY AND SLOWLY DAY AND NIGHT IF IT WERE ONLY THE THREE OF US... EVEN SO, IT'S STILL NOT CLEAR IF WE COULD REACH THE ENDING POINT WITH THAT..
EVEN WITH FOUR PEOPLE, WE STILL CAN'T REST MUCH OR FINISH WITH A GOOD TIMING ..
REACHING THE END OR NOT IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT..

It's alright even if we're a little slow!
!!
AMACHI-KUN HOW DO WE GO ABOUT LINKING THE TANKS?
AHH... LET ME SEE...
SLOWING DOWN...!?
THAT'S RIGHT... IF I SHARE THE REMAINING OXYGEN IN MY TANKS WITH THEM..
I WILL
FOR OUR TEAM, WE WILL BE PROGRESSING INDIVIDUALLY! WE HAVE TO DO THAT IF WE WANT TO MAKE A TURN-AROUND!
SORRY ABOUT THAT BUT WE'LL LEAVE YOU BEHIND IF YOU CAN'T CATCH UP!
WE DON'T HAVE THE MARGIN TO TAKE CARE OF OTHERS!!
THIS EXAM WILL BE THE END FOR YOU IF YOU DON'T GET THE FIRST PLACE!
THE FIRST PLACE...
EVERYTHING WILL END IF I DON'T GET THE FIRST PLACE...
THE END
IT WILL END WITHOUT ME BECOMING ONE——...
がんばれ諏太

WITHOUT ME BECOMING AN ASTRONAUT—...
IT WILL END...
—KUN
—GAMI -KUN


AND ALSO THINGS LIKE TOOLS?
WELL THEN, I'LL GO DOWN AND TAKE A LOOK
ALL RIGHT... NOW, LET'S TRY TO FIND SOMETHING THAT CAN LINK THE TANKS TOGETHER.
HOSES AND TAPE...
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT... IT'S NOTHING. SORRY ABOUT THAT!
TSUCHIGAMI-KUN?


I WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO WIN IF WE REACH THE ENDING POINT AT THE SAME TIME...!
I LEFT THE STARTING POINT EARLIER THAN SHIRAFUNE AND THE GUYS...

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THAT!
THE FIRST PLACE —...!
OKAY, GOT THAT...
IF I DON'T GET...
THE FIRST PLACE —...
TSUCHIGA-MI-KUN!
THE FIRST PLACE...
Hey look!
Look what I've found. Can we use this?
YEAH. IT SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT!
.....
EH...?

HAA
HAA
HAA

TO BECOME...
I WANT...
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
YOU'RE TOO SLOW!!
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING IF WE GO AT YOUR PACE!
AN ASTRONAUT—
AS I THOUGHT, YOU'RE HERE TODAY AGAIN!
YOU ALWAYS STUDY UNTIL YOU'RE THE LAST ONE LEFT—
DIDN'T I SAY THAT THERE WAS A MEETING TODAY!!
DAMN IT, YOU'RE REALLY USELESS
AND YOU HAVE THE GUTS TO SAY THAT YOU WANT TO BECOME AN ASTRONAUT...

BECOME AN ASTRONAUT—...
IN THAT CASE, LET'S ALL DO OUR VERY BEST!
AH- WHAT A GOOD CHILD~~
WE WOULD FEEL MORE AT EASE WITH ANOTHER COMPANION TOO, SO LET'S PROCEED TOGETHER.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
A PERSON...
LIKE ME.....
SO I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD BE FRIENDS!!
THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU REALLY WANT TO BECOME AN ASTRONAUT.

IN ORDER TO BECOME AN ASTRONAUT...!
I WOULD NEVER GIVE UP MY FRIENDS
!?
HAA
HAA.

MY TANKS ARE ALSO...!?
THAT'S BECAUSE AIR IS THIN UP THERE...
YOU WILL EXPERIENCE HEADACHES AND BREATHING DIFFICULTIES WHEN YOU'RE UP ON THE MOUNTAIN.
DON'T TELL ME THAT...
ゴボ...
IT HURTS...!
HAA
HAA
.....!?
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
I BETRAYED A FRIEND...
THIS MUST BE MY RETRIBUTION...
HAA
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO FINISH THIS ALONE...
With this... I'm already
HAA
"BEEP"
THIS IS FROM STARS.
YOU HAVE NOT MOVED FOR MORE THAN 30 SECONDS.
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
DO YOU WANT TO RETIRE?
HAA
HAA
.....

EH...?
I CAN STILL MOVE ON...
HAA
IT... IT'S ALL RIGHT...
HAA
HAA
WHY. WHY DID I SAY THAT IT'S ALL RIGHT...
WHEN IT'S ALREADY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO REACH THE ENDING POINT...
WHY DID I...
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
WHY...
I CAN'T BECOME AN ASTRONAUT ANYMORE...
EVERY ONE.
GRAN NY...
THIS IS REALLY BAD. IT'S POSSIBLE THAT HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING ANYMORE...
THAT CHILD...
DON'T...
WAIT FOR A WHILE!!
WE SHOULD MAKE HIM RETIRE FROM HERE!
THE COMMUNICATION SIGNAL WILL BECOME VERY WEAK IF IT'S TOO FAR FROM THE CABLES. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
ALSO... THIS CHILD STARTED THE TEST FAIRLY EARLY, SO THERE SHOULDN'T BE MUCH AIR LEFT IN HIS TANKS...

HAA
I CAN DO IT...
HAA
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT...
HAA
HAA
...AM I... WALKING...
... WHY...
UNBEARABLE...
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
!?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!!
REALLY——!! YOU'RE ACTUALLY IN SUCH A PLACE!!
A... AMACHI... KUN...
Haa
OKAY... JUST A LITTLE MORE..!
Haa
IT'S OVER THERE, HANG ON!

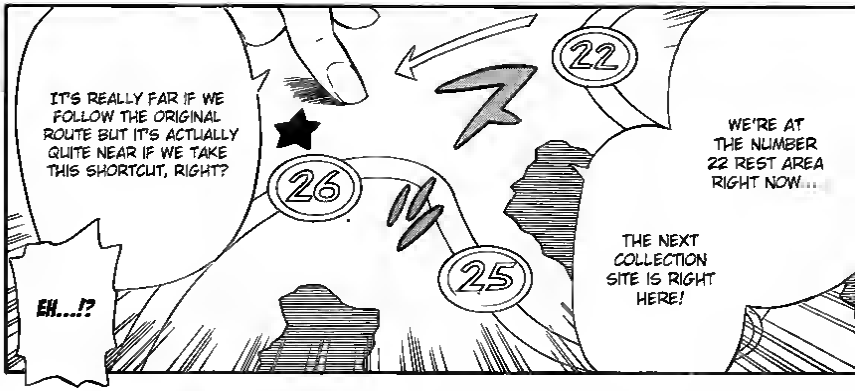
HA AA
HA AA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HA AA
HAA
UH..
.....
FUU...
HAA...
HAA...
HAA...
THAT'S ENOUGH!!
EV... EVERYONE..
I...

WHAT WOULD WE HAVE DONE IF SOMETHING HAD HAP-- PENED...!
!!
WHY ON EARTH DID YOU GO OFF BY YOURSELF!!
YOU IDIOT!!
WHEN THERE'S ALREADY NO AIR LEFT...
ENOUGH~~~~ REALLY~~~~ I'M GLAD THAT YOU'RE ALL RIGHT~~~~~...
EH..?
AR... ARE YOU GUYS WORRIED ABOUT ME?
AND NOT FOR THE TANKS .?
YEAH...
WHEN I WAS CONNECTING THE TANKS I NOTICED THAT
THERE WAS A MARK ON MY TANKS BUT THERE WASN'T ONE ON SHIRAFUNE'S AND MEGURU'S TANKS
THERE WAS ALSO A MARK ON YOUR TANKS—

SERIOUSLY, ENOUGH ALREADY!
YOU HAVE TO THANK AMACHI-KUN PROPERLY FOR THAT!!
YE... YES!
SO THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED...
YET I..
NO IT'S FINE
I CAN... UNDERSTAND THAT A LITTLE...
.....?
THE PRESSURES YOU EXPERIENCE BECAUSE YOU WANT TO LIVE UP TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU...
SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT ANYMORE
.....!
I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT A LITTLE...
YES...!
BUT THAT WAS REALLY CLOSE!
JUST A LITTLE MORE AND YOUR AIR WOULD BE USED UP...
STARS

TH... THAT'S TRUE. WE CAN ONLY RETIRE NOW...
WE WON'T DO THAT. I HAVE A PLAN
PLAN...?
THIS...
SHIRAFUNE'S OFF TO COLLECT THIS RIGHT NOW
EH.. ISN'T THAT THE LACUSTRINE GRASS WE HAVE TO COLLECT FOR THIS EXAM?
カチッ
THAT'S RIGHT. WE CAN SHINE LIGHT RAYS ON IT CONTINUOUSLY
JUST LIKE THIS
THIS LACUSTRINE GRASS IS A GENETICALLY MODIFIED GRASS THAT IS ABLE TO PHOTOSYNTHESISE EXPLOSIVELY...
!!
A... AMAZING!!

With this, we will be able to make it, even if our tanks are empty.
!!
I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM MY FATHER'S FRIEND... SO I KNEW THAT ST&RS IS DOING SOME RESEARCH ON THIS PLANT...
WBN
BUT IT'S MY FIRST TIME SEEING THE REAL THING.
BU... BUT TO COLLECT THEM...
THAT'S RIGHT.


IT'S REALLY FAR IF WE FOLLOW THE ORIGINAL ROUTE BUT IT'S ACTUALLY QUITE NEAR IF WE TAKE THIS SHORTCUT, RIGHT?
EH...!?
22
26
25
WE'RE AT THE NUMBER 22 REST AREA RIGHT NOW...
THE NEXT COLLECTION SITE IS RIGHT HERE!

LEAVE IT TO ME!!
DON'T WORRY! I'M GOOD AT SUCH THINGS!!
UH... BUT MAHO SAID...
THOSE WORDS...
TRAVELLING LONG DISTANCES IN COMPLETE DARKNESS AND WITHOUT ANY LANDMARKS...!
WHAT IF HE ENCOUNTERS AN ACCIDENT...!!
JU... JUST BY USING THE LIGHT ATTACHED TO THE SPACESUIT!? THE ROUTE... THERE ALSO ISN'T LIGHT FROM THE CABLES!?

週刊少年ジャンプ

SO WE LEFT THAT TASK TO MAHO!
AMACHI-KUN AND I HAD ONLY SUFFICIENT AIR TO GET TO THIS PLACE. WE GAVE ALL REMAINING AIR TO MAHO!
HAVE FAITH IN... SHIRAFUNE!
……!
SUCH A THING...
HE CAN DO IT.
……
ゴオン!
MAHO!?
IS THAT MAHO!?

I've gathered them~!!
HEY...
WA HAHA HAHA HA!!
WHAT'S WITH THAT GIANT PILE!!
SHIRA-FUNE
AMACHI-KUN! AND TSUCHIGA-MI-KUN!
You know, this grass is really amazing! Just like what Amachi-kun said!

SHI...
SHIRAFUNE-KUN...
That's great!!
With this, there isn't any problem for 3... 4, no, many people!
Air will gush out if we shine light on it consistently!
TSUCHIGAMI-KUN...!
TH...
THE IMPORTANT PEOPLE... "FRIENDS"!!
LET'S GO TOGETHER!
.....!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH...!
STRS
ST&RS-スターズ-
STEP TO THE NEXT ISSUE, ADVANCING TOWARDS THE ENDING POINT!! CENTER COLOUR!!

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Clockwork Lies
Muda Scantrad
RAW Viccinitude
TRANSLATOR -ALT-
PR Pandorizzio
CLEANERS Cyril Junior, [illegible]
TYPESETTER Blazin, Kad, Kaya,
QC Kaya, NoDoubtsX
STARS
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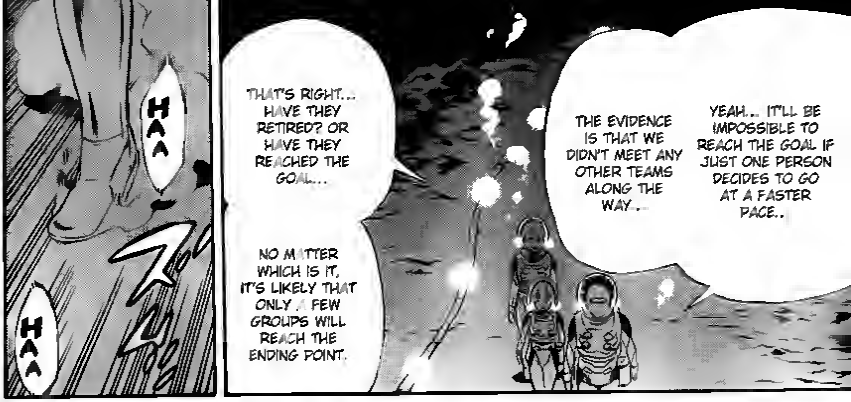
THE WISH TO GO TO SPACE... THE CLIMAX OF THEIR LONG WALK IN THE SIMULATED SPACE WITH CENTER COLOR —!!
ST&RS
宇宙への想い 擬似宇宙LW
クライマックスCカラー!!
STEP 11 AMACHI'S UNIVERSE
ART TAKEUCHI RYOUSUKE STORY MIYOKAWA MASARU

UGHH...
HAA
HAA
HAA
I'M REALLY SLEEPY... AND HUNGRY...
HAA
THANKS TO THOSE LACUSTRINE GRASSES, WE NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT THE LACK OF AIR ANYMORE BUT..
HAA
YE... YEAH!
AND NOW, IT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH TIME WE CAN SHORTEN...
WE HAVE TWO HOURS REMAIN-ING!
AND THE REMAINING DISTANCE IS 5KM!!
LONG WALK— THE FINAL PHASE!!
TIME LIMIT OF 24 HOURS WITH A TOTAL DISTANCE OF 50KM!!

Megaru! Just another 5KM, endure!
5KM! UM... LET'S DO OUR BEST!!
COMPARED TO THE HELL-LIKE VOLLEY-BALL TRAIN-ING, THIS IS NOTHING ...!!
... I REALLY WANT TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF TRAINING WAS THAT...
1KM TO THE ENDING POINT.
UP TILL NOW, WE HAVE BEEN PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE REMAINING AIR IN OUR TANKS
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE WE NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT THAT ANYMORE!
LET'S GET TO THE ENDING POINT WITH A BURST.
AS... AS I THOUGHT. THERE IS A SETTING WHERE THE AIR IS BARELY ENOUGH AND THREE PEOPLE HAVE TO SHARE THEIR OXYGEN...!
REALLY! WHAT KIND OF EXAM IS THIS...!!


HA
HA
THAT'S RIGHT... HAVE THEY RETIRED? OR HAVE THEY REACHED THE GOAL...
NO MATTER WHICH IS IT, IT'S LIKELY THAT ONLY A FEW GROUPS WILL REACH THE ENDING POINT.
THE EVIDENCE IS THAT WE DIDN'T MEET ANY OTHER TEAMS ALONG THE WAY..
YEAH.. IT'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH THE GOAL IF JUST ONE PERSON DECIDES TO GO AT A FASTER PACE..

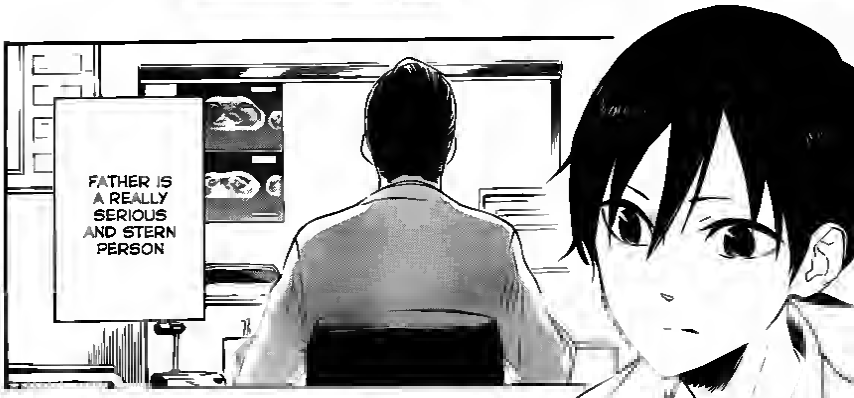
SHIRA-FUNE ...!
EH.. 4 PEOPLE ...!?
Fukami-kun !!
!
THAT'S ...?

IS THAT SO...
WHEN THIS GRASS PHOTOSYNTHESIZES...
SP-S11 IS A TYPE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED LACUSTRINE GRASS.
BUT IT'S STILL THANKS TO MAHO FOR BRINGING BACK A LARGE AMOUNT OF THE GRASS.
!
THAT'S SOME NICE WORK FROM YOU GUYS...
NAH
はっ
Fukami-kun and your team are amazing!
YOU GUYS MADE YOUR WAY HERE BY JUST DIVIDING UP THE AIR IN THE TANKS.
THAT'S RIGHT. THERE IS MORE THAN ONE CORRECT WAY OF DOING THIS.
BUT THERE IS ONE COMMON POINT BETWEEN THEM; THAT IS, EVERYONE MUST ALWAYS KEEP THE IDEA OF "TEAM PLAY" IN MIND.
That's right! Team! We made it here because we're in a team!
.....

.....
THAT'S BECAUSE...
THAT...
I JUST HATE THEIR JOKES OF ASKING OTHERS TO "GO AND DIE"..
.....IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
AH...
AMACHI-KUN GLARED AT THEM TOO. HE'S REALLY SCARY WHEN HE'S ANGRY.
THE OTHER TWO GUYS FROM TSUCHIGAMI'S GROUP DON'T HAVE A SENSE OF TEAM SPIRIT AT ALL!
MY FATHER IS A DOCTOR..

!
WATARU-KUN!
AH
HE'S IN THE EXAMINATION ROOM RIGHT NOW.
YOU'RE A GOOD CHILD— YOU BROUGHT OVER A CHANGE OF CLOTHES FOR DOCTOR MACHI RIGHT?
THIS IS INDEED A TOUGH CASE, BUT IT IS STILL POSSIBLE TO CURE IT WITH THE NEW TREATMENT AND MEDICINE.
PLEASE HOLD YOURSELF TOGETHER!
YES... THANK YOU VERY MUCH

JUST PLACE IT OVER THERE
YE... YES!
UH... IS THAT WATARU?
FU—


FATHER IS A REALLY SERIOUS AND STERN PERSON

IT'S JUST THAT— ALTHOUGH HE HAD NEVER ONCE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WANTS ME TO SUCCEED HIM AS A DOCTOR
HE SELDOM PRAISES ME EITHER.
FATHER RARELY PLAYS WITH ME OR SHOWS HIS FACE TO ME.

HE OFTEN SAYS THINGS LIKE "IF YOU SUCCEEDED ME"... "IF YOU WANT TO SUCCEED ME"...
ACCORDING TO MOTHER, FATHER READ THE COMPOSITION I WROTE IN SCHOOL ABOUT HIS JOB OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
THAT IS WHY

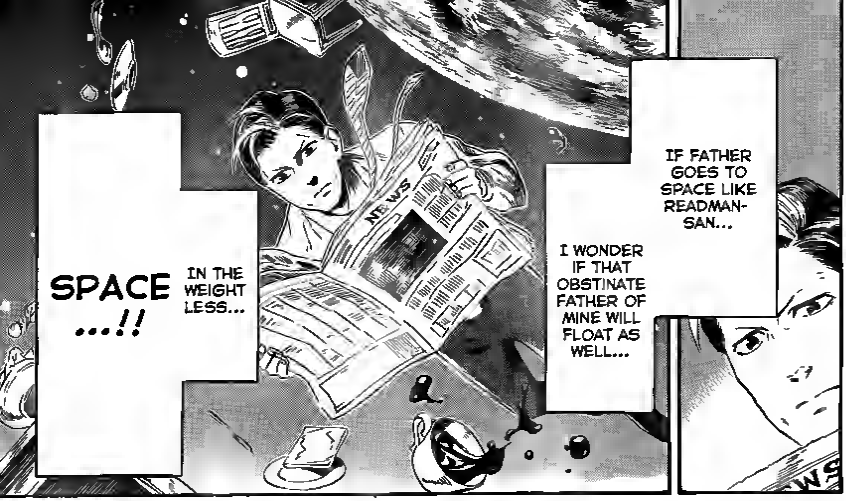
FOR SOME REASON OR ANOTHER, I THOUGHT OF BECOMING A DOCTOR IN THE FUTURE.
HOWEVER, IN THE END, I STILL CAN'T FOCUS MY MIND COMPLETELY TO PROGRESS ON THIS PREDETERMINED TRACK.

IT WAS AROUND THAT TIME—
THAT SOMEONE PAID A VISIT TO MY FATHER.
EXCUSE ME

Are you his son, Wataru? That's a great name!!
Ahh, sorry about that!! My body still hasn't gotten use to it...
.....?
!?
HA
Ni.. NICE TO MEET YOU
MANY PEOPLE VISIT FATHER
DOCTORS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS NED CAL PRODUCT MANUFACTURERS
NO MATTER WHO IS IT, THEY ALL DRESSED IN THE SAME FASHION..
NICE TO MEET YOU!!
I'M SANJAY READMAN!!

THERE'S ACTUALLY SOMEONE LIKE HIM AROUND FATHER... I BECAME INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHAT KIND OF PERSON HE IS.
HE IS AN UNPRECEDENTED PERSON WITH A REALLY WEIRD DRESSING STYLE HIS JOKES WERE INTERESTING AS WELL.
BUT READMAN-SAN IS DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS.
EXPERIMENTS. MEDICINE RELATED?
READMAN'S A DOCTOR TOO... BUT HE'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM FATHER...
I— SEE!
I'M A DOCTOR AS WELL BUT I'M DEEPLY ENGROSSED WITH DOING EXPERIMENTS!
EH.. AH... THAT'S RIGHT FATHER PROBABLY WISHES FOR THAT TOO...
WATARU WANTS TO BECOME A DOCTOR?
RETURN TO EARTH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
I ACTUALLY RETURNED TO EARTH WITH THAT AS THE HOSPITALITY GIFT!!
YEAH.
THE MEDICINE THAT YOUR FATHER WANTS IS FINALLY COMPLETED.

I'M A DOCTOR
AS WELL AS AN ASTRO-NAUT!!
S... SPACE ..!!
SOME MEDICINES ARE HARD TO CREATE ON EARTH...BUT IT'S POSSIBLE TO DO THAT UNDER THE WEIGHTLESS CONDITION OF SPACE
WITH THAT, MANY PEOPLE CAN BE SAVED
THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION!!
I WAS IN SPACE.
WELL, DOCTORS HAVE TO GO TO SPACE FROM NOW ON!
ha ha ha
.....!
THIS FEELS REALLY WEIRD. I THOUGHT THAT THE IMAGE OF A DOCTOR IS SOMEONE LIKE FATHER...
SUCH A DOCTOR ACTUALLY EXISTS...


SPACE ...!!
IN THE WEIGHT LESS...
NEWS
I WONDER IF THAT OBSTINATE FATHER OF MINE WILL FLOAT AS WELL...
IF FATHER GOES TO SPACE LIKE READMAN-SAN...

IT WAS AT THAT TIME WHEN I BEGAN TO CONTEMPLATE THAT
It's really fun~~ Space!
PFFF

I WANT TO BECOME AN ASTRONAUT.

SO, THERE IS NO NEED FOR A REASON TO HELP OTHERS.
NO, I MEAN... I STILL WANT TO BECOME A DOCTOR
AH..
.....!
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU!
!?
THAT WAS WELL SAID, AMACHI... NO...
WATARU...
!
EVEN SO...!!
.....
WHAT DID I... IS THERE ANYONE ELSE WHO'S AS GOOD AS HIM? THAT'S RIGHT, THERE ISN'T
WHA... YULIA, WHAT DID YOU SAY!?

BECOME AN ASTRONAUT AND DOCTOR
AS I THOUGHT, AMACHI-KUN IS AMAZING!!
THAT IS...!
TH...
ｹﾍ
ｹﾍ
ｹﾍ
ｹﾍ
ｹﾍ

THE
GOAL!!

W... we did it!!
THAT'S RIGHT...
THAT WAS REALLY TOUGH
HAA
HAA
HAA
SFX: "CLAP CLAP"
AH...
"CONGRATS" ON REACHING THE GOAL!
AH... IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL.
HUH?
Y.. YEAH.
DON'T BE MISTAKEN!
THAT IS NOT YOUR ABILITY AT ALL!
AS FOR US, WE DIDN'T MAKE IT TO THE GOAL AT ALL!
YOUR TIMING IS LAST ON THE LIST AND YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THOSE GUYS..

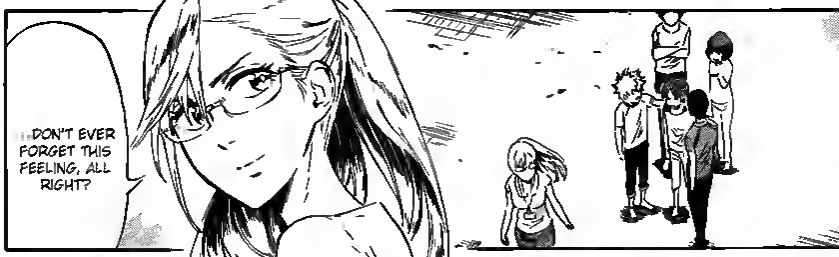
USING A SMALL AMOUNT OF RESOURCES TO COMPLETE TASKS IS REALLY IMPORTANT FOR AN ASTRONAUT
THAT IS TO SAY WITH REFERENCE TO THE AMOUNT OF OXYGEN IN THE TANK RIGHT FROM THE START, YOU HAVE TRAVELLED THE LONGEST DISTANCE
YOU YOU HAVE THE LONGEST TRAVELLING RANGE
EH..!?
GEH!!
PRINCIPAL FIFI...!!

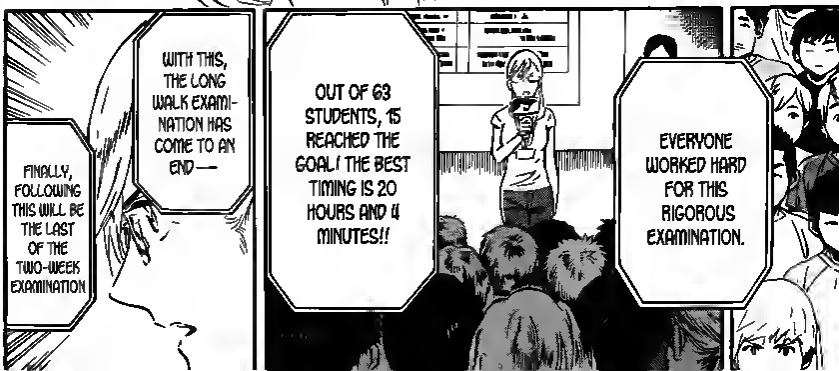
YOU'VE WORKED HARD.

Yeah! That's great!
Ohhh——! That was really something, Tsuchigami-kun!!
.....!!

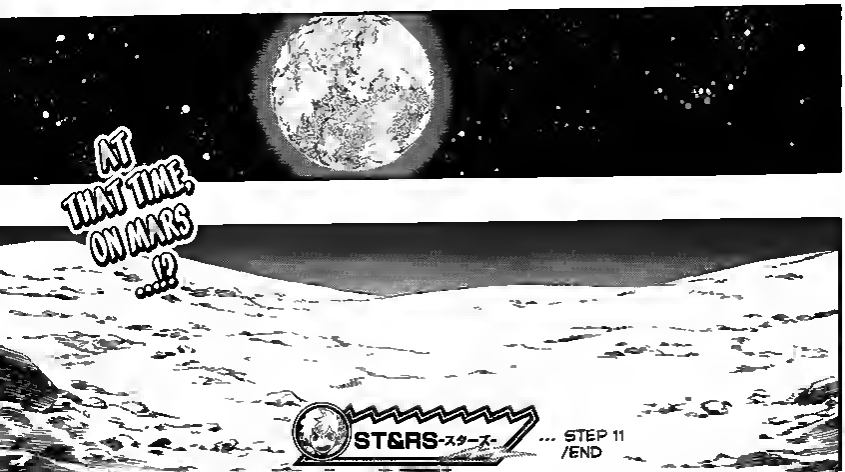
WH... WHAT'S WITH THE BOTH OF YOU...
DEFENDING T'SUCHIGAMI EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOT IN THE SAME GROUP...!!
!?
CHE
WHAT'S WITH THAT!
!
WE MAY NOT BE IN THE SAME GROUP...
BUT WE ARE IN THE SAME TEAM!!
A TEAM WITH THE SAME GOAL OF BECOMING AN ASTRO-NAUT!!
I... I...!
YE... YES! IT'S ALL THANKS TO EVERYONE!!
.....!!
THAT WAS PRETTY GOOD, TSUCHIGAMI!

I... I WON'T RUN AWAY AGAIN! NEVER AGAIN...!!
NEXT TIME, I WANT TO HELP MY FRIENDS TOO...! I WILL DEFI-NITELY HELP THEM!!


...DON'T EVER FORGET THIS FEELING, ALL RIGHT?


FINALLY, FOLLOWING THIS WILL BE THE LAST OF THE TWO-WEEK EXAMINATION
WITH THIS, THE LONG WALK EXAMI-NATION HAS COME TO AN END——
OUT OF 63 STUDENTS, 15 REACHED THE GOAL! THE BEST TIMING IS 20 HOURS AND 4 MINUTES!!
EVERYONE WORKED HARD FOR THIS RIGOROUS EXAMINATION.

PLEASE UNDERGO THE LAST ROUND OF INTERVIEW!!


AT THAT TIME, ON MARS ...!?

Clockwork Lies
Muda Scantrad
RAW
Vicesitude
TRANSLATOR
-ALT
PR
pumpkin_ou77
CLEANERS
Abo-San, Kaggiffiton, Zeyson, NullDarkRex
TYPESETTER
BlaZin, RaDar
QC
NullDarkRex, RaDar
STARS
HTTP://CLOCKWORKLIES.COM #CW-LIES@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET
HTTP://MUDASCANTRAD.COM #MUDA-SCANLATIONS@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET

ST&RS

IN THE MARS PROJECT HUB—!?

AMERICA, FLORIDA- CAPE CANAVERAL

ST&RS KENNEDY SPACE CENTER—

AH...

KEIICHIROU, YOU'RE BACK?

YE..H... ABOUT THAT, YOU SHOULD JUST CONTACT HER!

IT'S OKAY.. EVEN IF I CALL HER, WE'LL STILL END UP QUARREL-ING...

I GUESS, STILL THE SAME... THAT CHILD, HOW IS SHE DOING?

YO SIS, HOW'S IT GOING?

ST&RS FLORIDA BASE FLIGHT DIRECTOR TITI COLLINS (29)

BEEEEPPP

"SOME-THING" HAS HAP-PENED ...!?

MARS' HIGHEST ALERT LEVEL!!

THIS IS... THE LEVEL 9 ALERT!!

!!

STORY: TAKEUCHI RYOUSUKE
ART: MIYOKAWA MASARU

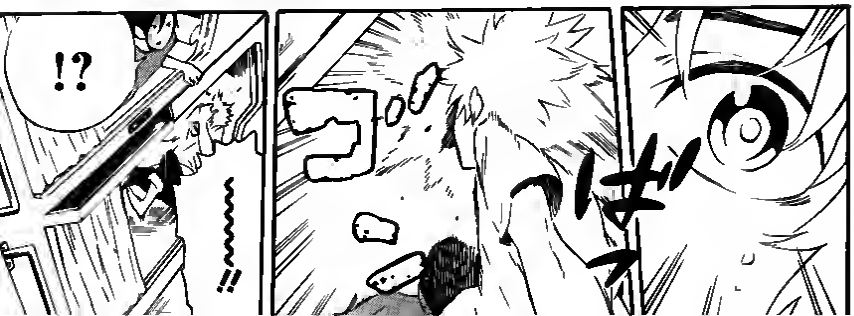
AT THE SAME TIME, JAPAN, UNDERGROUND OF SHIN TSUKUBA, SLEEPING MONOLITH (SM)
WAH!!
SNIFF SNIFF
MEGURU~~ YOU'LL STILL BE STINKY IF YOU DON'T WASH YOURSELF PROPERLY!
WH... WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
EHHH
I'm just joking!
YOU'RE REALLY
WAH!!

HAA...
NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT.
OI SHIRAFUNE! WAKE UP! YOU'LL CATCH A COLD!
STILL NOT WAKING UP... HE MUST BE SLEEPING SO DEEPLY THAT HE'S NOT EVEN DREAMING...
SOR.. SORRY ABOUT THAT
WE WERE IN THE SHOWER FOR TOO LONG..
CAN'T BE HELPED THEN. LET'S MOVE HIM TO THE ROOM—
I.. I WILL LEAVE IT TO YOU!
WOW
ずんずん

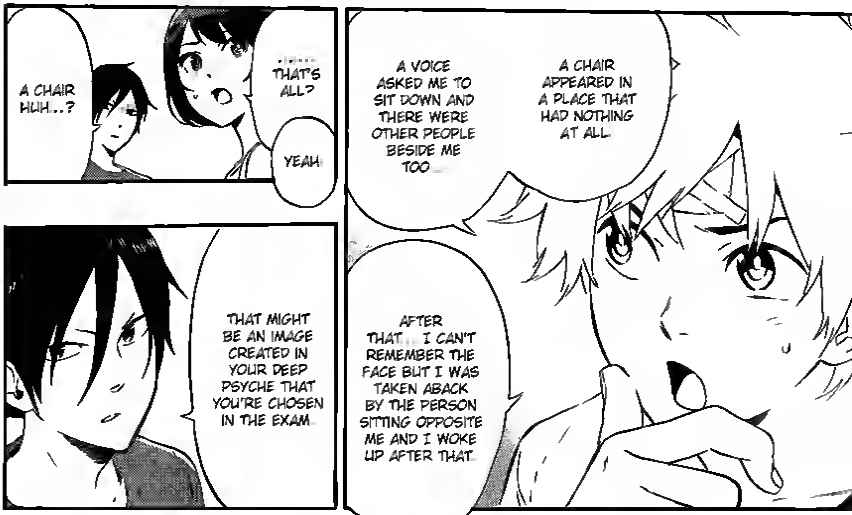
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TO SIT ON THIS CHAIR RIGHT?
CHAIR...

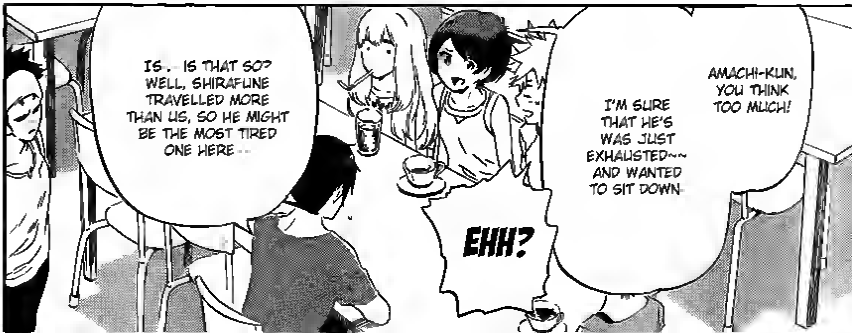
...WHO'S SITTING ON
THERE RE ALSO OTHER PEOPLE BESIDE ME...

MY OTHER SIDE
...


!?
!!!!!!
HA!!

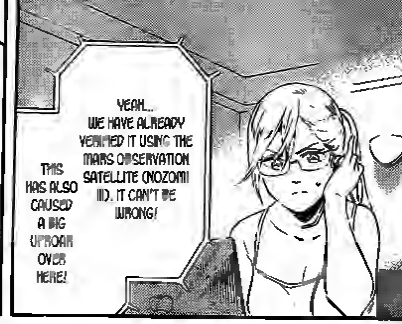
HEH— WHAT KIND OF DREAM WAS THAT?
YEAH... I HAVEN'T HAD A DREAM FOR A LONG TIME
A DREAM?
TAG CAFETERIA
食堂
2034/01/03 21:00


A CHAIR HUH..?
.....THAT'S ALL?
YEAH
A VOICE ASKED ME TO SIT DOWN AND THERE WERE OTHER PEOPLE BESIDE ME TOO...
A CHAIR APPEARED IN A PLACE THAT HAD NOTHING AT ALL.
THAT MIGHT BE AN IMAGE CREATED IN YOUR DEEP PSYCHE THAT YOU'RE CHOSEN IN THE EXAM.
AFTER THAT... I CAN'T REMEMBER THE FACE BUT I WAS TAKEN ABACK BY THE PERSON SITTING OPPOSITE ME AND I WOKE UP AFTER THAT.


IS... IS THAT SO? WELL, SHIRAFUNE TRAVELLED MORE THAN US, SO HE MIGHT BE THE MOST TIRED ONE HERE...
EHH?
I'M SURE THAT HE'S WAS JUST EXHAUSTED~~ AND WANTED TO SIT DOWN.
AMACHI-KUN, YOU THINK TOO MUCH!

LISTEN UP EVERYBODY. THIS WILL BE OUR SCHEDULE FROM NOW ON.
THERE WILL BE NO EXAMINATION TONIGHT SO THAT WE CAN RELIEVE OUR FATIGUE FROM THE LONG WALK.
THERE WILL ALSO BE A FULL DAY MEDICAL EXAMINATION TO ASSESS OUR FATIGUE DEGREE.
AND THEN, WE WILL BE UNDERGOING THE FINAL INTERVIEW ON THE FOLLOWING DAY!
IT WILL BE A GROUP INTERVIEW WHERE ALL 6 PEOPLE FROM THE SAME ROOM WILL GO THROUGH IT TOGETHER— THAT'LL BE ALL.
AH! DO YOU THINK THAT MAHO'S DREAM HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS INTERVIEW?
IS... IS THAT SO? I HAVEN'T BEEN THROUGH ANYTHING LIKE AN INTERVIEW BEFORE.
ALL RIGHT... WELL THEN, LET'S TRY TO THINK OF THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL BE ASKED AND WE CAN PRACTICE USING THEM.
Ahh, let's do that!
Yeah!
IS THAT FOR REAL!?

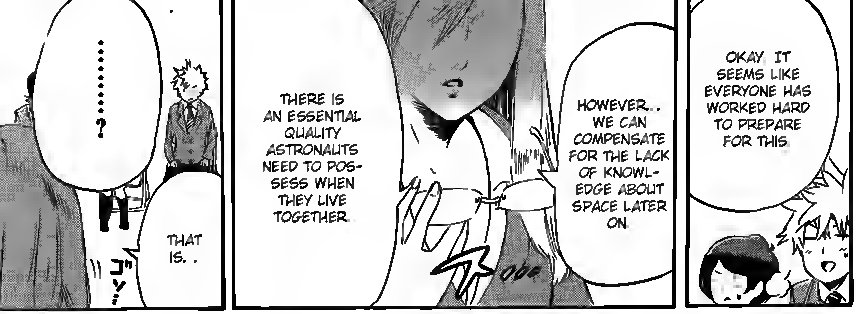
NOZOMI III WILL ORBIT AROUND MARS ONCE EVERY 45 MINUTES...
IN A PLACE WITHOUT ANYTHING LAST WEEK, "THIS THING" APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE.
I WILL SEND THE IMAGE TO YOU RIGHT NOW.

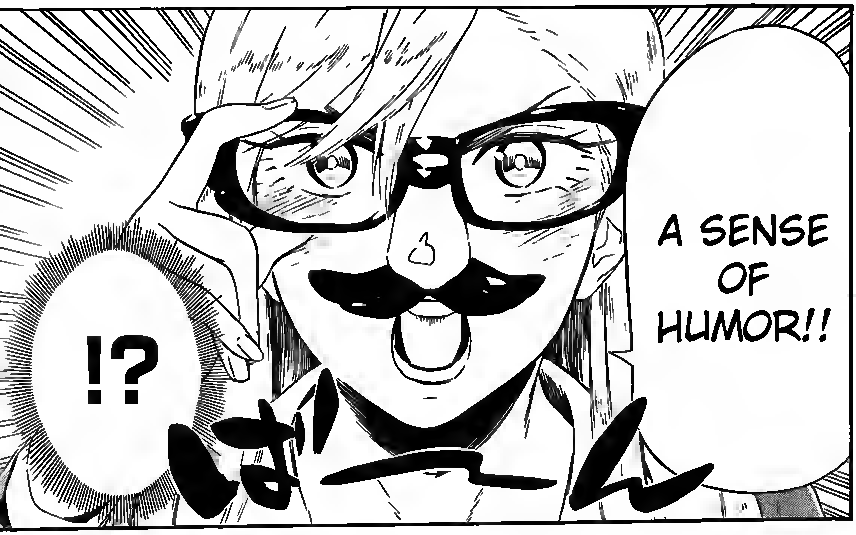

YEAH... WE HAVE ALREADY VERIFIED IT USING THE MARS OBSERVATION SATELLITE (NOZOMI II). IT CAN'T BE WRONG!
THIS HAS ALSO CAUSED A BIG UPROAR OVER HERE!

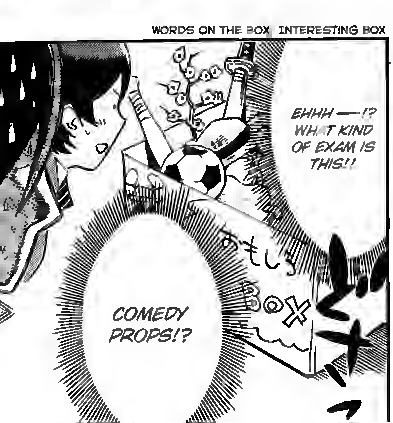
2034. 1. 3. 05:01:02
500
.....!?
WH... WHAT IS THIS...
I DON'T KNOW...
ALL WE CAN SEE IS THAT THE SOIL AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS WERE RAISED IN A REGULAR FASHION.

SISTER ...!?
YOU'RE FIFI, RIGHT? YOU KNOW, YOU'RE ACTUALLY NOT IN THE POSITION TO SEE THAT IMAGE.
やべー
!?
THE LOCATION IS NEAR THE EQUATOR OF MARS. THE EXPLORATION ROVERS ARE HEADING TOWARD THERE NOW—
NOT EVERYONE HAS THAT MUCH FREE TIME ON THEIR HANDS LIKE YOU!
AN EMERGENCY MEETING WILL BE HELD TOMORROW BECAUSE OF THIS INCIDENT. WE ARE EXTREMELY BUSY NOW!
IF YOU WANT TO COME BACK HERE, I CAN HELP YOU WITH—
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT!!
BEEP BEEP
.....
YOU GIRLS ARE SURE IN A GOOD RELATIONSHIP. YOU SAID ALL THOSE THINGS BECAUSE YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT HER, RIGHT?
FROM FIFI
LET ME KNOW IMMEDIATELY IF THERE'S ANY MOVEMENT AGAIN!
P.S.
SISTER IS AN IDIOT.
THEIR RELATIONSHIP IS BAD HUH.
RING
HAA—... THAT GIRL IS REALLY...

5TH JANUARY
DAY OF INTERVIEW
EXCUSE ME.
YOU CAN COME IN.
PLEASE TAKE A SEAT
MAHO?
N... NO!
ガタッ
...IS ANYTHING WRONG?
.....
ALL RIGHT THE INTERVIEW WILL START RIGHT NOW.
TO START OFF, I WOULD LIKE EVERYBODY TO TELL ME ABOUT THEIR MOTIVATION FOR APPLYING FOR THIS SCHOOL.


OKAY. IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYONE HAS WORKED HARD TO PREPARE FOR THIS.
HOWEVER... WE CAN COMPENSATE FOR THE LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SPACE LATER ON.
THERE IS AN ESSENTIAL QUALITY ASTRONAUTS NEED TO POSSESS WHEN THEY LIVE TOGETHER.
THAT IS..
ゴソ
.....?


A SENSE OF HUMOR!!
!?

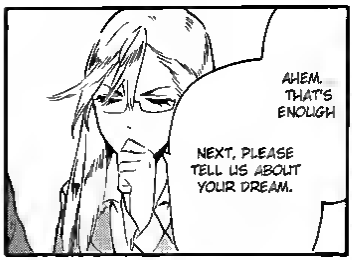

WORDS ON THE BOX. INTERESTING BOX
EHHH——!? WHAT KIND OF EXAM IS THIS!!
COMEDY PROPS!?

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT!!
"I WANT TO BE WITH THIS PERSON!" LET ME SEE IF YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO MAKE OTHERS THINK THAT WAY!!
YOU NEED NOT DO THAT AT ALL IF YOU'RE THAT EMBARRASSED
YOU NEED NOT DO THAT AT ALL IF YOU'RE THAT EMBARRASSED

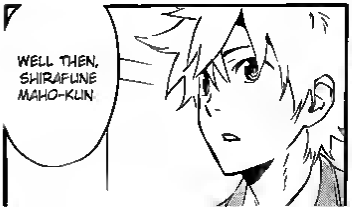
I SEE... ALL RIGHT!
FUKAMI-KUN!?
A LEADER HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO STAND UP AND FACE THE MOST DIFFICULT CHALLENGE... LET ME GO FIRST!!
SATURN!!
LET ME PERFORM A GAG
EH!? HE'S PRETENDING TO BE A SATURN ROCKET!?
PFF
HAHAHA!!
THANK YOU
EHH HHHHH —!?
It hit Fifi's laughing spot !!
V-very good!! Fukami-kun, continue with it!
Okay !!
Go for it!!

Ninja!!
Stab
We are~
Yo!
The journey to Planet Meguru is 2 hours by Train~ P&P
?
AMACHI WATARU.. WILL DO A WEIRD FACE
Ha
Ha
Ha
AMACHI-KUN...!!
AMACHI-KUN IS THE ONLY ONE LEFT.....!
BUT WE HAVE PERFORMED QUITE A NUMBER OF GAGS SO IT MIGHT BE HARDER FOR HIM TO MAKE THE INTERVIEWERS LAUGH NOW

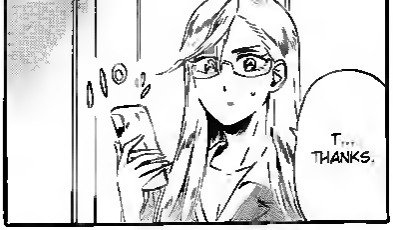
PFFFFFFFFFF


AHEM, THAT'S ENOUGH
NEXT, PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR DREAM.

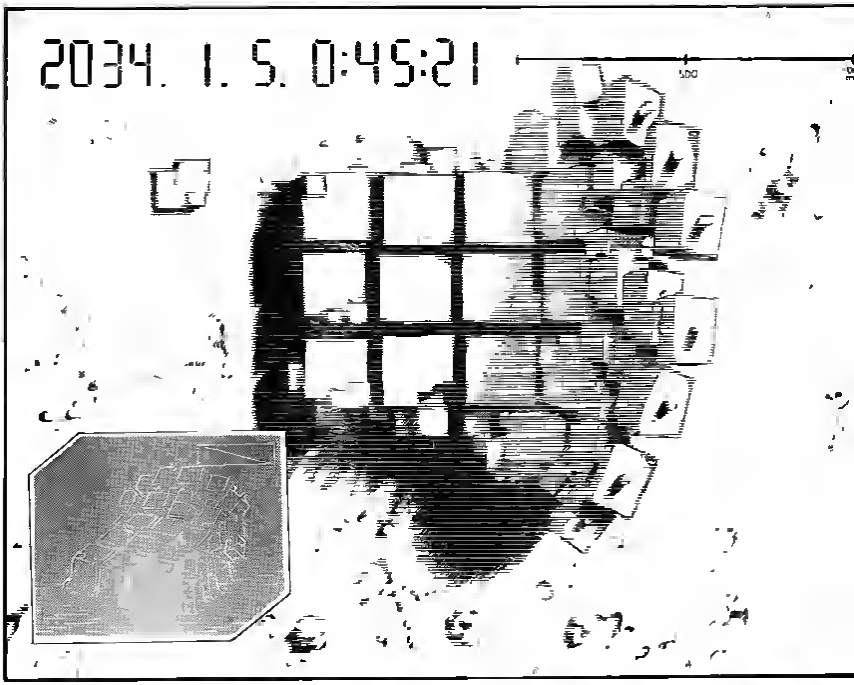
AHAHA
HAHA
HAHA
TH . THAT WAS REALLY WELL-RECEIVED...!!
WHAT KIND OF FACE DID HE MAKE!?
I WON'T SHOW YOU.. I WON'T TELL YOU...


WELL THEN, SHIRAFUNE MAHO-KUN

Yes!
Hmm, about the dream I had yesterday.
CHAIRS APPEARED IN A PLACE THAT WAS EMPTY.
SOMEONE ASKED ME TO SIT DOWN, SO I LISTENED TO THAT AND SAT DOWN! AFTER THAT ——
.....? CHAIRS?
Idiot.. Mako stop right there! The dream she meant is the goal you want to attain!
RE... REALLY... I GUESS SO!!
YOU ARE TOO RELAXED! WELL THEN, LET'S START AGAIN
Ye.. YES!
ガィ〜ン
SFX. Ring
SORRY ABOUT THAT. I'M GOING OUTSIDE FOR A WHILE.
OKAY.
MY DREAM IS TO GO TO MARS ——
DID ANYTHING HAPPEN?
YEAH... A NEW DEVELOPMENT!!


T... THANKS.

SEANCHY
I'VE SENT THE IMAGE OVER! LET ME KNOW IF YOU NOTICE ANYTHING.


2034. 1. 5. 0:45:21

"CHAIR"...

WHAT'S WRONG? IS THERE ANY-THING...
.....

EH... CHAIR!? DID YOU SAY "CHAIR"!?
IN OTHER WORDS... THAT PLACE IS THE
"MEETING GROUND"...
?
CHAIR...!?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE NOTHING BUT A CHAIR!
I GUESS
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT THIS! AS ONE WOULD EXPECT OF PROFESSOR COLLINS!!
THE MEETING GROUND...! I SEE... SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...!
COME BACK ALREADY
THE WORK YOU HAVE TO DO IS IN AMERICA
FIFI
WHAT THE —!
OI, CONTACT THE COMMANDER IMMEDIATELY!!
COLLINS... IS THAT FIFI-SAN!?
THAT PLACE IS THE MEETING GROUND!?

...USUBARU, WHAT IS THERE IN JAPAN?
.....
NO... THERE'S WORK FOR ME IN JAPAN TOO.
!
...SOMEONE WITH "POSSIBILITY".
PRINCIPAL, IT'S ALREADY THE LAST ONE. IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO ASK ——
NO... IT'S ALL RIGHT.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
ガ
ナ

WELL THEN, THE SECOND GROUP WILL— PRINCIPAL? YOU DON'T LOOK TOO WELL
IT'S NOTHING I'M JUST A LITTLE PERPLEXED
バタン…
WITH THIS, THE ENTIRE EXAM HAS COME TO THE END
Thank you very much!!
WE WILL SEND A NOTICE TO YOUR HOUSE AT A LATER DATE TO INFORM YOU ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF YOUR APPLICATION FOR THE SPACE ACADEMY
EH…?
IT HAS FINALLY STARTED TO MOVE—…
STARTING FROM THE MESSAGE WE RECEIVED 15 YEARS AGO…
EVERYTHING!!
JAPAN SPACE ACADEMY ENTRANCE EXAMINATION— FULLY ENDED.
THE PATH TOWARDS MARS IS—!?
ANOTHER 548 DAYS TO THE PROMISED DATE—
ST&RS-スターズ-
STEP.12 /END

Clockwork Lies
Muda Scantrad
RAW Vicissitude
TRANSLATOR -ALT-
PR pumpkin_ou77
CLEANERS Aiko-San, Kaiser, Zaeon
TYPESETTER Cwittyunmad, Kaiser
QC abed0148, Kaiser
STARS
HTTP://CLOCKWORKLIES.COM #CW-LIES@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET
HTTP://MUDASCANTRAD.COM #MUDA-SCANLATIONS@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET

ST&RS
-スターズ-
OHH...!
YEAR 2034
6 JANUARY
9:00
THE EXAM IS FINALLY OVER—!!
WE'RE OUT-SIDE!!
Words on signboard Safety First
LET'S GO OVER THERE AND COLLECT OUR BAGGAGE
TWO WEEKS WENT BY JUST LIKE THAT
I GUESS
TH... THAT'S TRUE
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WE'VE NOT ONLY STEPPED ON THE MOON (?), WE EVEN ENTERED AN UNDERGROUND LAKE

SHIRAFUNE-KUN!
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR ME!
YEAH! THANKS FOR YOUR HELP TOO

MEGURU, TELL ME YOUR PERSONAL ADDRESS!
Okay! I want yours too—
WATARU, THIS IS MY CONTACT ADDRESS. IF YOU DON'T MIND
AH.. YEAH

LET'S KEEP IN CONTACT

IT'S ALL RIGHT.. WE WILL STILL MEET AS LONG AS OUR GOAL IS TO BE AN ASTRONALIT
FUKAMI-KUN TOO
AH.. FUKAMI-KUN!

Let's meet again in spring!!

I'M GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP
SEE YA
LET'S HOPE THAT WE CAN MEET IN SPRING

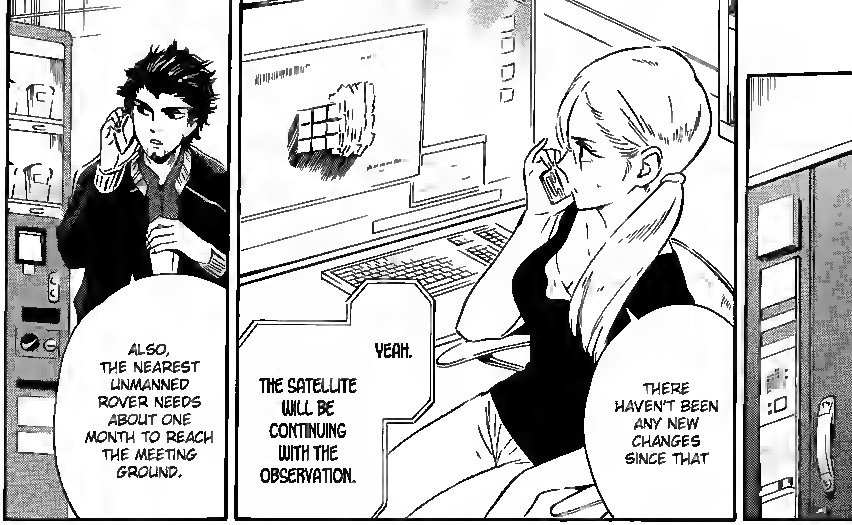
Yeah! That's right...!

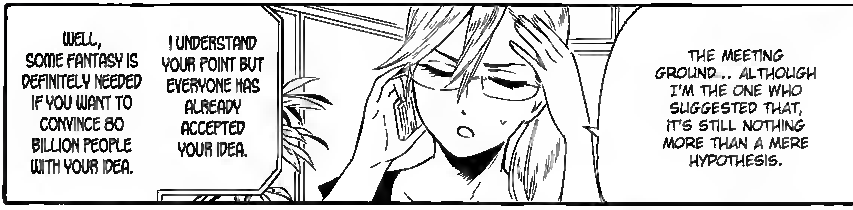
STEP 13: CHILDREN

Waiting for the season of the cherry blossoms*

STORY: TAKEUCHI RYOUSUKE ART: MIYOKAWA MASARU

* T/N: *Sakura Saku* (lit. Blooming of the cherry blossoms) also means "achieving success in your exams"


ALSO, THE NEAREST UNMANNED ROVER NEEDS ABOUT ONE MONTH TO REACH THE MEETING GROUND.
YEAH. THE SATELLITE WILL BE CONTINUING WITH THE OBSERVATION.
THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY NEW CHANGES SINCE THAT

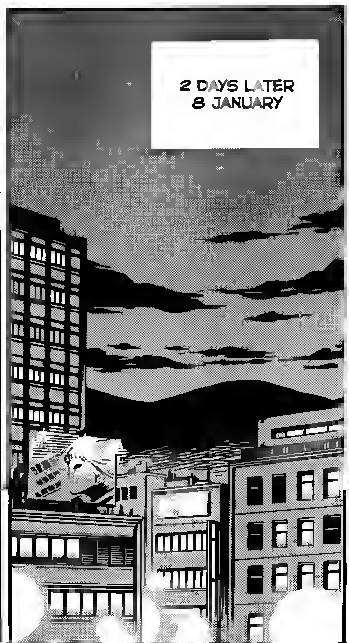

WELL, SOME FANTASY IS DEFINITELY NEEDED IF YOU WANT TO CONVINCE 80 BILLION PEOPLE WITH YOUR IDEA.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR POINT BUT EVERYONE HAS ALREADY ACCEPTED YOUR IDEA.
THE MEETING GROUND... ALTHOUGH I'M THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED THAT, IT'S STILL NOTHING MORE THAN A MERE HYPOTHESIS.

SFX Beep
ピッ
HOW WAS THAT "CHAIR" CREATED... DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW AS WELL?
ABOUT THAT...
FANTASY, HUH?
I WILL PROBABLY FEEL MORE AT EASE IF THAT'S JUST A FANTASY...
IS THAT SO? I'M REALLY EXCITED ABOUT IT.

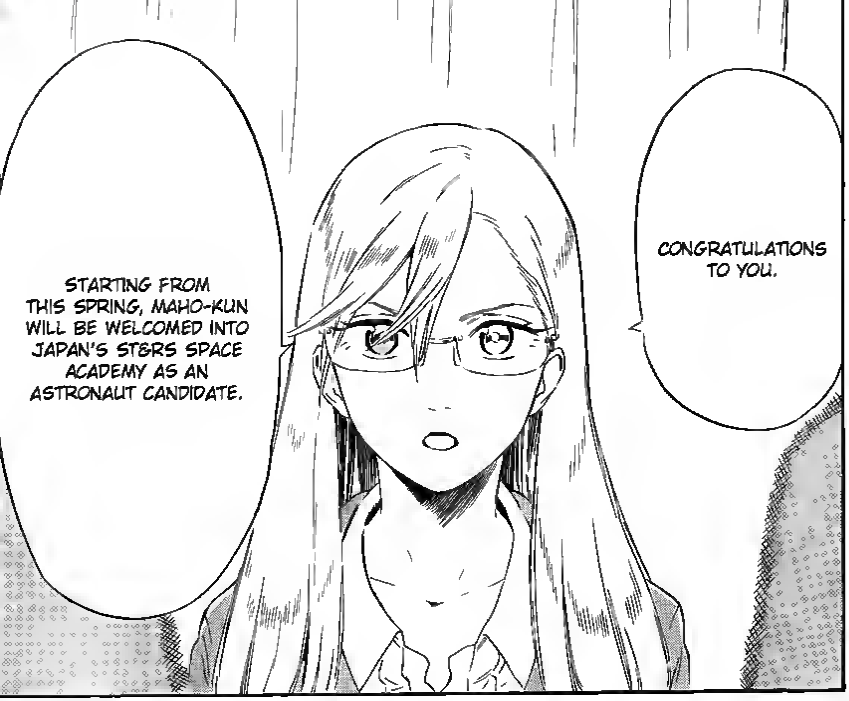
I'M OFF FOR A MEETING. I'LL CONTACT YOU AGAIN
.....
YOU WILL HAVE TO MAKE ANOTHER TRIP TO SPACE YOURSELF!!
PRINCIPAL, THE SCREENING MEETING WILL COMMENCE SOON. THANK YOU.

THE NEXT PIECE OF NEWS.
PRIME MINISTER, FUJIKAWA, HAS TAKEN THE GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT TO ATTEND THE MARS MEETING HELD BY STARS IN WASHINGTON THIS AFTERNOON.

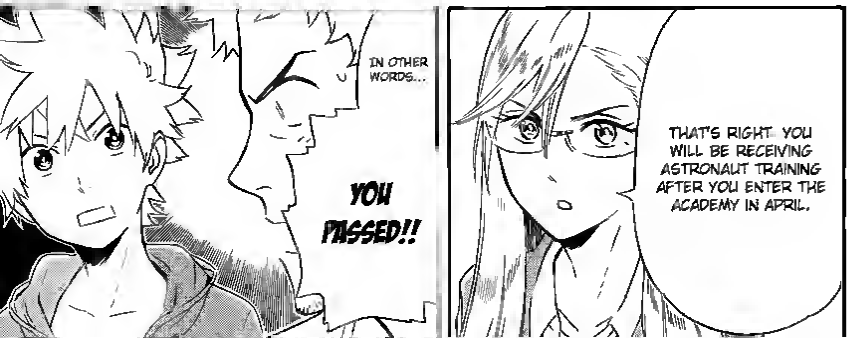
TV (top right) Today's Afternoon News
(bottom) Minister Fujikawa attends the Mars Meeting.



AH... DEAR, PLEASE OPEN THE DOOR.
OK—
SFX: "Ding-dong"
COMING COMING.
IT APPEARS THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF "GETTING IN CONTACT" WITH THE MONUMENT HAS BECOME THE POINT AT ISSUE FOR THIS MEETING.
YEAH.
WHAT? AHH... IT'S THE NEWS FROM SOME TIME AGO.
UWAHHH
A BEAUTY!!
AH... FIFI-SAN!
WHAT! DO YOU KNOW THIS LADY?
HEY... DAD, CALM DOWN!
.....
SHE'S NOT JUST A BEAUTY! SHE'S ALSO A FOREIGNER! A FOREIGN BEAUTY!! OH, MY GOSH!!


CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU.
STARTING FROM THIS SPRING, MAHO-KUN WILL BE WELCOMED INTO JAPAN'S ST&RS SPACE ACADEMY AS AN ASTRONAUT CANDIDATE.

ASTRONAUT .
CANDIDATE...?

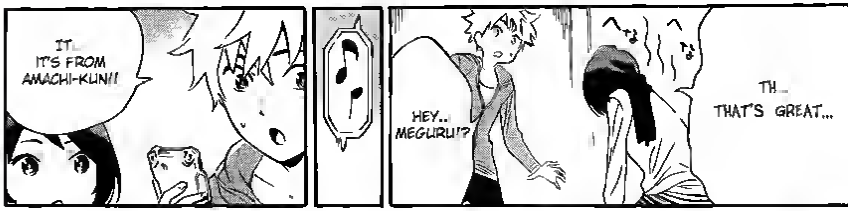

THAT'S RIGHT. YOU WILL BE RECEIVING ASTRONAUT TRAINING AFTER YOU ENTER THE ACADEMY IN APRIL.
IN OTHER WORDS...
YOU PASSED!!

Words on the chime: Congrats

YE... YES! I WILL WORK HARD!!
FROM NOW ON, THERE WILL BE AN ONLINE TEST ONCE A WEEK. YOU CAN DO IT, RIGHT?
PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO STUDY ALL THESE BEFORE YOU ENTER THE ACADEMY.

AMACHI-KUN, MEGURU AND... WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS!?
H... HMM...
OKAY.
WELL THEN, PLEASE SIGN THE DOCUMENTS AFTER I HAVE SHOWED THEM TO YOU.
ALTHOUGH I CAN'T REALLY REVEAL THE DETAILS OF THE SELECTION PROCESS...
... JUST AS WHAT I HAVE SAID AT THE START. THE OUTCOME WILL BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS YOU ATTAINED INDIVIDUALLY AND AS A TEAM.
.....?
SFX. "Ding-dong"
MAHO, OPEN THE DOOR.
O...OK.
MAHO ...!!
... LET'S PUT IT THIS WAY. YOUR INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE WAS MORE OR LESS AVERAGE BUT...
YOU HAVE DISPLAYED REALLY SPLENDID ABILITY FOR THOSE GROUP EXAMINATIONS.
IN ADDITION, YOUR GROUP WAS A REALLY EXCELLENT TEAM.

I passed!!
!!
JUST NOW! JUST NOW! SOMEONE FROM STARS CAME OVER ..
AH... MAHO TOO!?
YEAH!


IT... IT'S FROM AMACHI-KUN!!
HEY.. MEGURU!?
TH... THAT'S GREAT...

YEAH! MEGURU TOO!
AH... WHAT ABOUT AMACHI-KUN!?
YEAH, I PASSED.
AMACHI-KUN!?
.. FROM THE TONE OF YOUR VOICE, YOU PASSED RIGHT?

REALLY!? THAT'S AWESOME!!
IT'S ALL THANKS TO EVERYONE.
I'M GOING TO TALK TO MY FATHER ABOUT IT NOW... THAT'S THE BIGGEST BARRIER TO OVERCOME
SHIRAFUNE-SAN
...THERE IS SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU
I HEARD THAT THE FIRST WORD MAHO-KUN SPOKE WAS "MARS"...
AND THAT INCIDENT FELL ON THE SAME DAY AS THE DAY WE RECEIVED THE MESSAGE FROM SPACE.
IS THAT TRUE?
Right! It's true!! Ah — I still remember that day vividly!!
Hahaha
... DID HE SAY ANY OTHER THINGS OR MENTION ANYTHING SIMILAR...?
IF YOU RECALL ANY OF THOSE THINGS, PLEASE CONTACT ME.

Yes!
I HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF YOU GUYS, SO WORK HARD.
THE BOTH OF YOU ..
FIFI-SAN!
WELL THEN, I WILL BE TAKING MY LEAVE.

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations on entering the Space Academy!!
Amachi Wataru-kun
Hoshihara Meguru-san
Shirafune Maho-kun

YEAR 2034
1 APRIL
第34回卒業証書授与式
STARS SPACE
ACADEMY
ENROLLMENT
CEREMONY

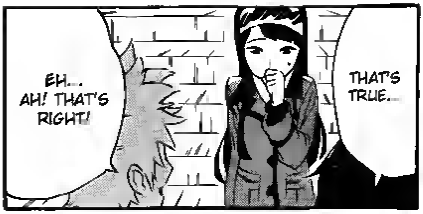
WOW... IT'S PACKED WITH PEOPLE
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO.
YEAH!
TH... THOSE CHILDREN ARE THE FRESHMEN FOR THIS YEAR
THE FUTURE ASTRONAUTS.
Congrats!
SOMEHOW... THIS FEELS A LITTLE EMBARRASSING
AH
It's the dormitory!! I saw it on the pamphlet.
HEH— IT LOOKS NICE!.
THIS TIME WE WILL FINALLY BE SLEEPING IN SEPARATE ROOMS RIGHT!

HEY!
You guys are slow!!
OH NO~~ WHY IS IT THAT ALL OF US ARE GETTING NERVOUS AS WELL
REALLY... YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S NERVOUS!
Fufufu
SHIRAFUNE TSUCHIGAMI WAS LOOKING FOR YOU
It's been a while! Waa— Marka, the uniform really suits you~ it's nice~~!
EXCUSE ME
ARE THE BOTH OF YOU SHIRAFUNE-KUN'S PARENTS?
AHH, YES! WE ARE...
I AM AMACHI WATARU'S FATHER, NOBORU
THANK YOU FOR ALL THE HELP YOU GAVE MY SON
Ahh! Hello!! That's very kind of you, I should thank you instead.
NO REALLY... IT'S ALL THANKS TO MAHO-KUN

EHH!! Did my son do something!?
AH, NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT NOW LET'S GET GOING

WH...WHAT HAPPENED?
NAH... THAT GIRL IS STAG-GERING...
WAA!!
THA...
THANKS A LOT...
N... no. It's been a while since I took a step out of the research center... so it's a little...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? ARE YOU FEELING UNWELL?

I... I'm sorry. I'm really sorry! I'm all right! Really all right!
EH? ENOUGH, ENOUGH! IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY!
AH...
THE LAST TIME I CAME OUT FROM THERE WAS IN AUTUMN... AND BEFORE THAT WAS IN WINTER?
WELL, SEASONS ARE JUST A PHENOMENON CAUSED BY THE TILT OF THE EARTH'S AXIS...
RE... RESEARCH CENTER?


EH... AH! THAT'S RIGHT!
THAT'S TRUE...

.....
THIS GIRL IS PROBABLY A FRESHMAN AS WELL. SHE'S WEARING THE SCHOOL UNIFORM.. BUT I DON'T RECALL SEEING HER DURING THE EXAM IN TSUKUBA.

HEY, YOU ARE...

The STARS... message said that...
It... it's not... it's not like that!

THAT'S WHY I...
THE "CHILD" WHO WILL GO TO SPACE WILL BE THE ONE WITH "ABILITY".

I WAS ONLY SUMMONED TO THIS PLACE...!!
THIS GIRL WILL GET THE STORY MOVING ...!!
EH..!?
SUMMONED... WHAT DID SHE MEAN BY THAT?
THAT CHILD... WHO EXACTLY...!?

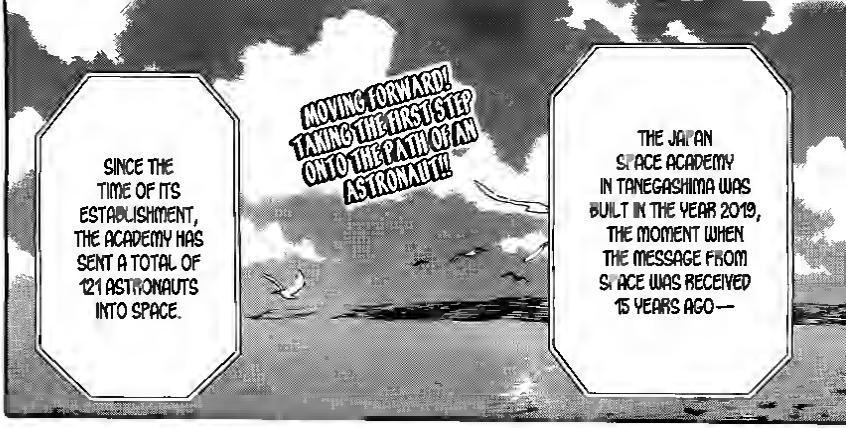
CLOCKWORK LIES
MUDA SCANTRAD
RAW Vicissitude
TRANSLATOR -ALT-
PR pumpkin_sa77
CLEANERS Cyrus, Ne-Yuri, Zenon
TYPESETTERS Blaze, Switch, Hotaru, alucard9148
QC alucard9148
STARS
HTTP://CLOCKWORKLIES.COM #CW-LIES@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET
HTTP://MUDASCANTRAD.COM #MUDA-SCANLATIONS@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET

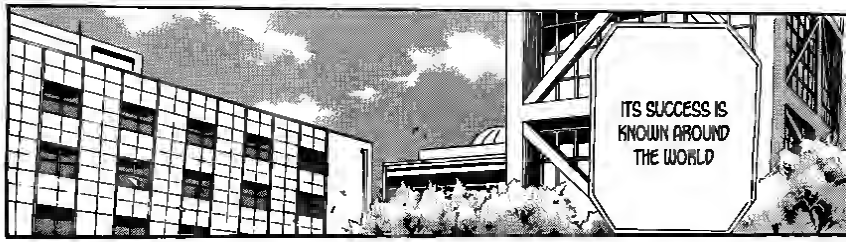
STEP 14: MAKURA IZUMI

ST&RS

THE THOUGHTS THAT RESIDE DEEP WITHIN THE GIRL'S HEART—

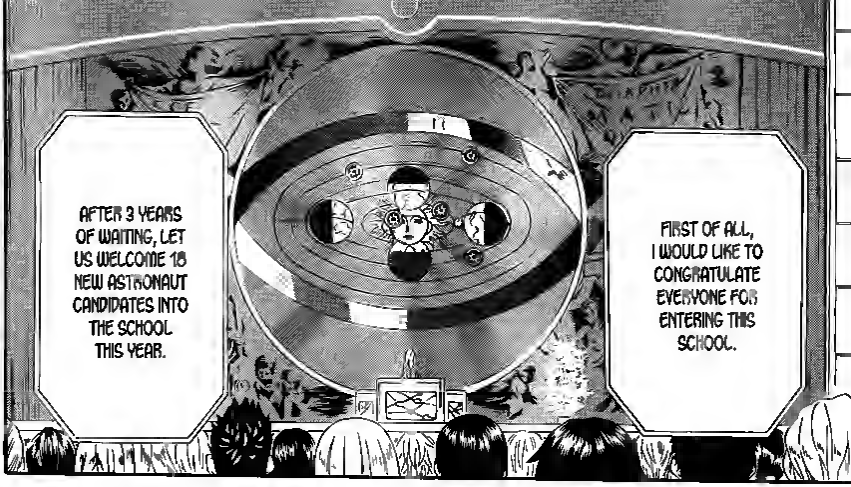
STORY: TAKEUCHI RYOUSUKE ART: MIYOKAWA MASARU


MOVING FORWARD! TAKING THE FIRST STEP ONTO THE PATH OF AN ASTRONAUT!!!
THE JAPAN SPACE ACADEMY IN TANEGASHIMA WAS BUILT IN THE YEAR 2019, THE MOMENT WHEN THE MESSAGE FROM SPACE WAS RECEIVED 15 YEARS AGO—
SINCE THE TIME OF ITS ESTABLISHMENT, THE ACADEMY HAS SENT A TOTAL OF 121 ASTRONAUTS INTO SPACE.

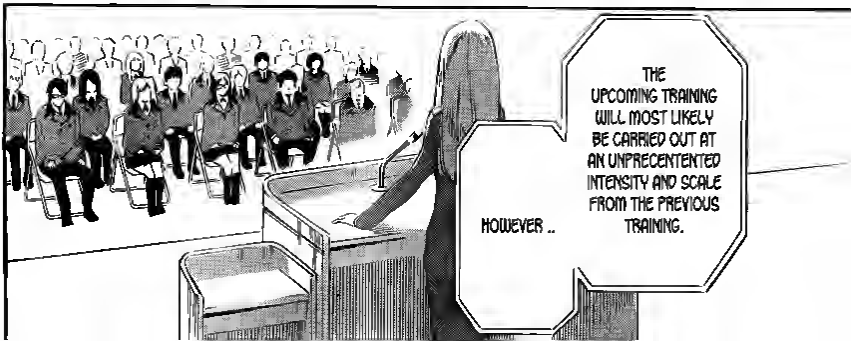

ITS SUCCESS IS KNOWN AROUND THE WORLD

THIS YEAR, ST&RS WILL BE PROPELLING THE MARS PROJECT AS WELL.
FOR THIS, WE HOPE TO SEEK EVERYONE'S UNDER-STANDING AND COOPERATION.
LOOK... THAT GIRL
AS I THOUGHT, SHE'S A FRESHMEN LIKE US...!

I W..IS ONLY SUMMONED TO THIS PL..CE...!!
YEAH.
BUT... I DON'T RECALL SEEING HER AT ALL...
.....
I THINK I'VE HEARD ABOUT HER
SHE DIDN'T GO FOR THE EXAMS IN TSUKUBA—
ADMISSION UPON RECOMMENDATION ...!
!!
BY RECOM-MENDATION~~~!? HOW COCKY. JUST WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS SHE!
AND NOW, THE PRINCIPAL OF THE ACADEMY, FIFI COLLINS, WILL GREET EVERYONE
ﾊﾟﾁﾊﾟﾁ
ﾊﾟﾁﾊﾟﾁ


AFTER 3 YEARS OF WAITING, LET US WELCOME 18 NEW ASTRONAUT CANDIDATES INTO THE SCHOOL THIS YEAR.
FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE EVERYONE FOR ENTERING THIS SCHOOL.

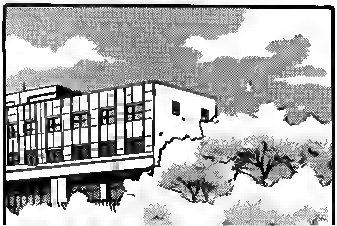
THE SPACE ACADEMIES AROUND THE WORLD WILL FINALLY START TRAINING AGAIN.
I AM VERY PLEASED THAT WE ARE ABLE TO WELCOME THE ARRIVAL OF THIS DAY SAFELY.


HOWEVER ..
THE UPCOMING TRAINING WILL MOST LIKELY BE CARRIED OUT AT AN UNPRECENTENTED INTENSITY AND SCALE FROM THE PREVIOUS TRAINING.

PLEASE...
I HOPE THAT EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU WILL ENDURE THOSE INTENSE TRAININGS AND BECOME OUTSTANDING ASTRONAUTS.
HENCE, THESE TRAININGS ARE ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO SURVIVE—
THE ARRIVAL OF THE EXTRATERRESTRIAL BEINGS WILL ALSO BRING ABOUT THE "COSMOS AGE".
AND PROVIDE US WITH YOUR ASSISTANCE!!
ACQUIRE THAT "ABILITY" AS SOON AS POSSIBLE—
WELL THEN, FOLLOWING THIS—
THANKS YOU VERY MUCH
THAT WILL BE ALL.

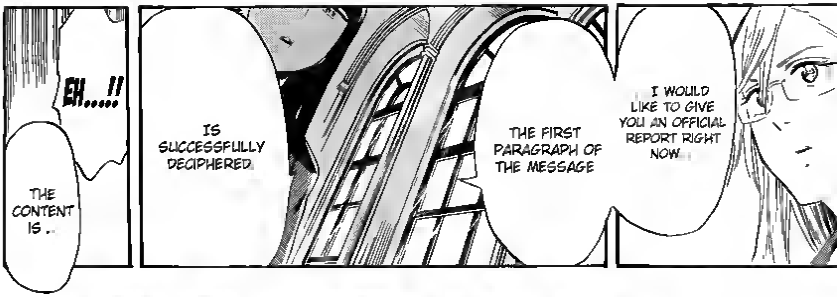
HEY AMACHI-KUN
AMACHI-KUN?
...IT'S NOTHING OUR PRINCIPAL MENTIONED THAT "ABILITY" TOO...
Yeah! I'm all pumped up!
FIFI-SAN TOLD US TO HELP THEM OUT!
SINCE SHE ALREADY PUT IT LIKE THAT, I GUESS WE SHOULD DO OUR BEST!!
HA~~

HOWEVER, "ACQUIRE THE POWER" IS A NORMAL WAY OF SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT, RIGHT?
WELL... I GUESS SO...



"TOO"?
DIDN'T THAT GIRL WHO GOT RECOMMENDED SAY SOMETHING STRANGE AS WELL? SOMETHING ABOUT CHILDREN AND ABILITY—
SOMEHOW, THOSE STRANGE WORDS STAYED IN MY MIND...

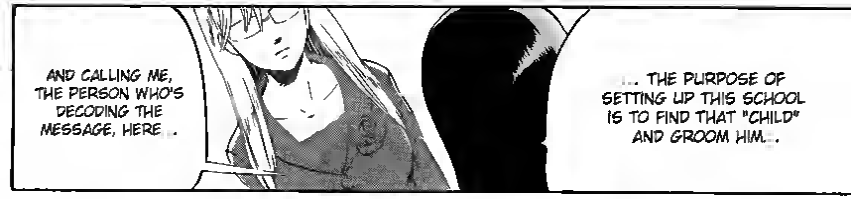
IZUMI...!
CO... COLLINS-SAN...
WELL THEN, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THIS.
WHAT'S NEXT ON THE SCHEDULE?
PLEASE GO AHEAD WITHOUT ME.
AH!! SHE'S THE ONE FROM HIGASHIHARIMA RESEARCH INSTITUTE...
I HEARD THAT YOU WORKED REALLY HARD IN THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE.
THEY EVEN ASKED ME TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, IZUMI.
YOU HAVE GROWN A LOT TALLER!
I... I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU ABOUT THIS...


EH.....!!
THE CONTENT IS..
IS SUCCESSFULLY DECIPHERED
THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THE MESSAGE
I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU AN OFFICIAL REPORT RIGHT NOW.

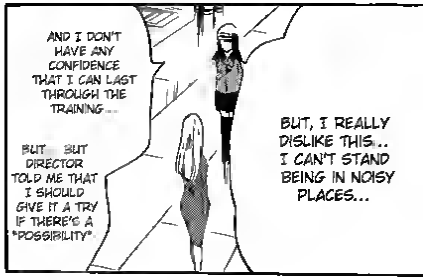
PLEASE BRING THE CHILD WHO HOLDS THE POWER OF THE MILKY WAY TO MARS.

... SO NOW, WE CLEARLY KNOW THAT CHILDREN PLAY A CORE ROLE IN THIS.
MANY PROCEEDINGS OF THE MARS PROJECT WILL PROBABLY BE EASIER TO HANDLE AFTER KNOWING THE MESSAGE.
!!
I... I GUESS THAT'S RIGHT AS EXPECTED WE NEED A CHILD WITH A 'POWER'...
WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS "POWER OF THE MILKY WAY"...?
IT'S STILL TOO ABSTRACT AT THE MOMENT SO WE DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT IT IS REFERRING TO
BUT WE'RE IN THE PROCESS OF DECIPHERING THAT RIGHT NOW—
WE CAN PROBABLY FIND THE EXPLANATION FOR IT IN THE SECOND PARAGRAPH OF THE MESSAGE.
TH... THANK YOU! YOU CAME HERE TO CONVEY THIS MESSAGE TO ME, RIGHT?
THIS IS WORRISOME... I WONDER WHAT EXACTLY THAT MEAN'S...
WE WILL BE CONCENTRATING ON DECODING THAT FROM NOW ON...
YES... THAT'S WHY.....
ABOUT THAT...

DO... DO I REALLY HAVE TO COME TO SCHOOL NO MATTER WHAT...!?
I... REALLY WANT TO FOCUS ALL MY ATTENTION ON DECODING THAT MESSAGE...!


... THE PURPOSE OF SETTING UP THIS SCHOOL IS TO FIND THAT "CHILD" AND GROOM HIM...
AND CALLING ME, THE PERSON WHO'S DECODING THE MESSAGE, HERE...

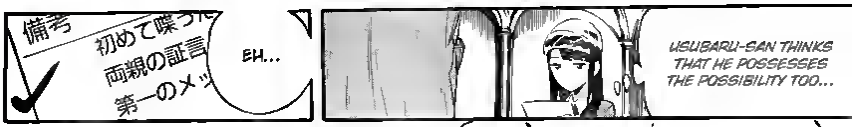
I BEG OF YOU...!
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO DO THAT...!
THE ONLY THING I WANT TO DO IS TO DECODE THE MESSAGE...

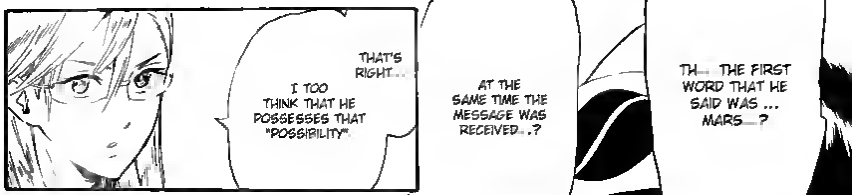

BUT, I REALLY DISLIKE THIS... I CAN'T STAND BEING IN NOISY PLACES...
AND I DON'T HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE THAT I CAN LAST THROUGH THE TRAINING...
BUT... BUT DIRECTOR TOLD ME THAT I SHOULD GIVE IT A TRY IF THERE'S A "POSSIBILITY"

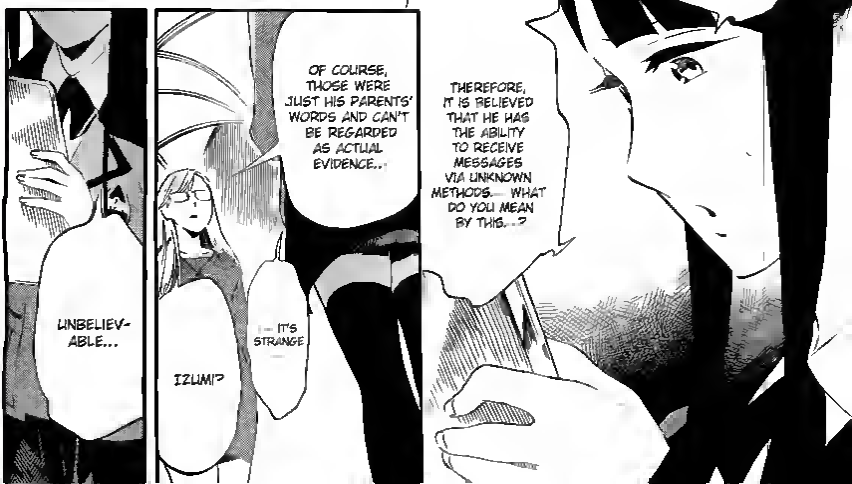
I...
HE TOLD ME THAT I WILL HAVE TO STOP WITH THE RESEARCH IF I REFUSE TO COME HERE...

IZUMI...
BUT I HOPE THAT YOU CAN BECOME AN ASTRONAUT TOO!
I UNDERSTAND THAT WE'RE BEING HARD ON YOU...
BUT SINCE THERE IS A "POSSIBILITY"...
I SEE...
.....
AH, THERE ARE ALSO OTHER CHILDREN WHO POSSESS THAT "POSSIBILITY" LIKE YOU
I'M SURE THAT YOU GUYS CAN BECOME FRIENDS
.....
NO.. NO WAY...
SHIRAFUNE MAHO...?

RANKED 68 IN THE WRITTEN TESTS AND 42 FOR THE PHYSICAL TESTS
EXHIBITED EXCEPTIONAL SPATIAL PERCEPTION DURING THE TEST ON THE MOON'S SURFACE...
AND DISPLAYED EXCELLENT SENSE OF DIRECTION IN ABSOLUTE DARKNESS DURING THE LONG WALK...
...THE PERSON FROM THAT TIME..?


備考
初めて喋った
両親の証言
第一のメッ
EH...
USUBARU-SAN THINKS THAT HE POSSESSES THE POSSIBILITY TOO...


THAT'S RIGHT...
I TOO THINK THAT HE POSSESSES THAT "POSSIBILITY"
AT THE SAME TIME THE MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED..?
TH... THE FIRST WORD THAT HE SAID WAS ... MARS...?


UNBELIEV-ABLE...
IZUMI?
...IT'S STRANGE
OF COURSE, THOSE WERE JUST HIS PARENTS' WORDS AND CAN'T BE REGARDED AS ACTUAL EVIDENCE..
THEREFORE, IT IS BELIEVED THAT HE HAS THE ABILITY TO RECEIVE MESSAGES VIA UNKNOWN METHODS... WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THIS..?

EHH?
I. . I'LL BE TAKING MY LEAVE.
!
THE SAME AS ME...

HOLD ON! IZUMI!?
...SHIRAFUNE...
101
SHIRAFUNE...
JUST WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS HE...
HE'S ALSO A CHILD WHO IS ABLE TO RECEIVE THE MESSAGES DIRECTLY
HE'S THE SAME AS ME...
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD THAT SUCH A PERSON EXISTS...!

.....A CHEERFUL BOY...
WHAT'S WITH THAT...
LAUGH...
.....!
HEY
LAUGH
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT TO MAKE HIM LAUGH LIKE THAT.
EH...
Is it true that you didn't go through those tests!?
Fukami-kun said that you were recommended into the school.
EH...
...HMM, ABOUT THAT...
Ah! Sorry about that! I'm Shirafune Maho! You're...
...MI... MIKURA IZUMI.
IT'S TRUE THAT I WAS RECOMMENDED IN.

わっ
So that's really the case!!
Amazing!!
EH...
HMM...
WHY!? DID YOU ONLY GO THROUGH THE INTERVIEW!?
TELL US ABOUT IT---!!
わい
わいわい
わい
THAT WAS REALLY RUDE!
DO YOU GET IN BY SOME CONNECTIONS?
DID YOU DO ANYTHING SPECIAL?
WHY ARE YOU RECOMMENDED IN?
WHO RECOMMENDED YOU? SOMEONE FAMOUS?
SO IT'S TRUE...
THAT'S AMAZING...

ARE YOU FROM KANSAI?
YOU ARE REALLY SPECIAL!
AH
HMM
HOW ARE YOU CHOSEN?
DID THEY CONTACT YOU SUDDENLY?
AHAHA
ISN'T THAT EVEN MORE NERVE WRACKING?
BUT IT'S REALLY SOMETHING, ISN'T IT? SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO GOT RECOMMENDED IN.
NO WAY!! AH... THAT'S REAL
.....
IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS ISN'T IT!
HEY, JUST TELL US ABOUT IT-
OI OI
OI OI OI
WAIT WAIT!!
Bombarding questions after questions! How would she be able to figure out what all of you are saying!
SORRY ABOUT THAT, MIKURA-SAN-

MAHO! THE TEACHER IS HERE!
.....
MIKURA-SAN...?
!?
O..OK!
TUG
EH... WHO DID YOU HEAR THAT FROM?
IS THAT TRUE ..?
TH.. THE FIRST
THE FIRST WORD THAT YOU SAID WAS "MARS"...
IS THAT TRUE...?

Yeah... it's appears to be true...
Dad told me that
But I was too young that time, so I have no recollection of it at all.
SORRY ABOUT THAT!
THAT STUDENT OVER THERE, GET BACK TO YOUR SEAT!
MAHO?
WHAT DID THAT GIRL SAY?
UMM, IT'S NOTHING MUCH...
THIS GIRL IS ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE "CHILDREN"

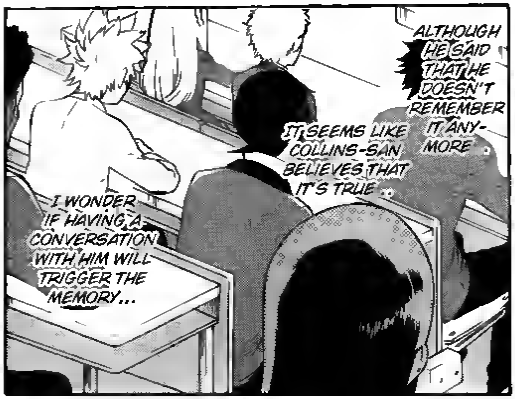
Clockwork Lies
Muda Scantrad
RAW Pleiades
TRANSLATOR -ALT-
PR Pandapanda
CLEANERS BlaZin, Nobi, Kage, Ratbar, Zeben
TYPESETTER BlaZin, minimon
QC abed8148
STARS
HTTP://CLOCKWORKLIES.COM #CW-LIES@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET
HTTP://MUDASCANTRAD.COM #MUDA-SCANLATIONS@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET

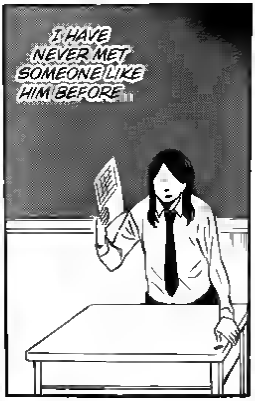
ST&RS

STEP 15: THE DISTANT 10 M

WE ARE A GROUP OF ROMANTIC (?) "SPACE GIRLS"!!

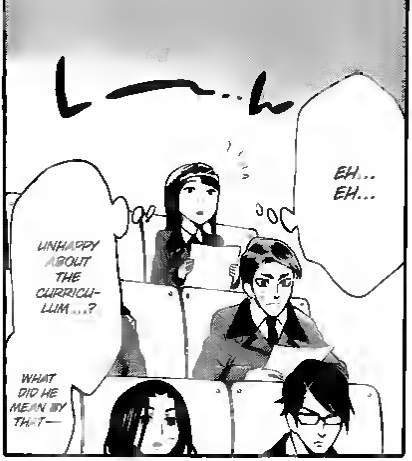
STORY: TAKEUCHI RYOUSUKE ART: MIYOKAWA MASARU


ALTHOUGH HE SAID THAT HE DOESN'T REMEMBER IT ANY-MORE
IT SEEMS LIKE COLLINS-SAN BELIEVES THAT IT'S TRUE...
I WONDER IF HAVING A CONVERSATION WITH HIM WILL TRIGGER THE MEMORY...

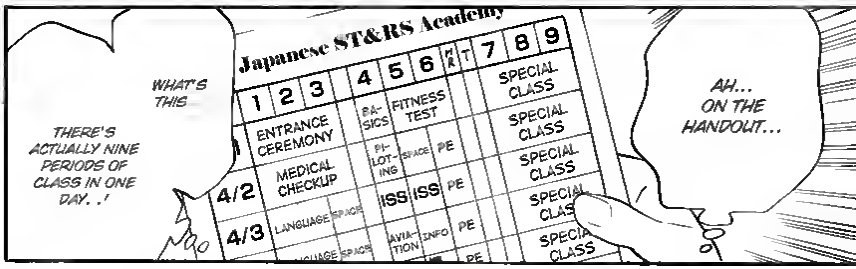


PAYING A LOT OF ATTENTION TO "THAT PERSON"... THE FEELING OF WANTING TO GET CLOSE TO HIM... BUT...

I'M TALKING TO YOU!
!!
AH, YES!
THE HANDOUT
AH.. I'M SORRY
I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS AT ALL, AND I ALWAYS STAYED INSIDE THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE...
WHAT CAN A PERSON LIKE ME TALK TO HIM ABOUT...
MAINTAIN SILENCE!!
EH... THE TEACHER...?
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE IN A KINDER-GARTEN?
RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING!!


L——..h
EH... EH...
UNHAPPY ABOUT THE CURRICULUM...?
WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THAT—

THIS CURRICULUM WAS PLANNED SPECIFICALLY FOR ALL OF YOU!
GO HOME RIGHT NOW IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST THAT ARRANGEMENT!!


WHAT'S THIS
THERE'S ACTUALLY NINE PERIODS OF CLASS IN ONE DAY..!
Japanese ST&RS Academy
1 2 3 4 5 6 NAT 7 8 9
4/2
4/3
ENTRANCE CEREMONY
BASICS
FITNESS TEST
SPECIAL CLASS
MEDICAL CHECKUP
PILOTING
SPACE
PE
LANGUAGE
ISS
AVIATION
INFO
AH... ON THE HANDOUT...

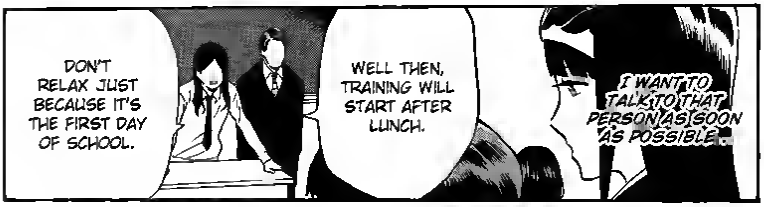
NEXT YEAR WILL BE THE "PROMISED DATE", THE DAY THAT THE EXTRATERRESTRIAL BEINGS WILL LAND ON MARS. IT'S ALSO THE TIME WHEN WE WILL WELCOME THE START OF A BRAND NEW ERA—!!!
RIGHT NOW, THERE ARE 105 ASTRONAUTS IN JAPAN AND A TOTAL OF 1162 ASTRONAUTS IN THE WORLD
SO I'LL ASSUME THAT THERE'S NO PROBLEM!!
HO.. HOW CAN I.. FIND TIME TO DECODE THE MESSAGE.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE WITH THIS SCHEDULE..

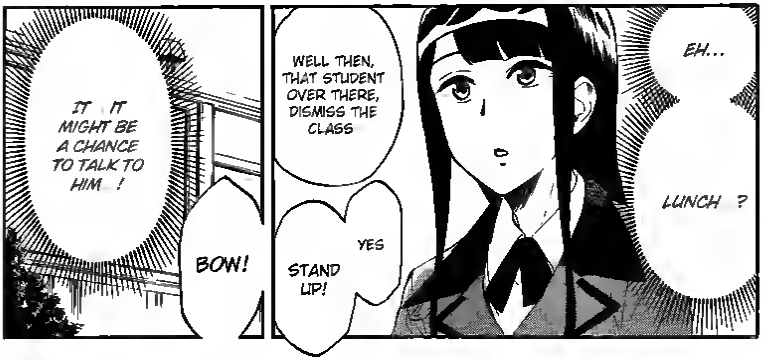
KEEP THOSE WORDS IN MIND!!
IN REALITY, THE TRAINING ISN'T TOUGH ENOUGH AT ALL.
ADDITIONALLY, THERE MIGHT BE SOME PEOPLE WHO FEEL THAT THE UPCOMING TRAINING IS TOO HARSH...
HOWEVER, IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE TO WAIT FOR THAT "SOMEDAY" TO ARRIVE!
SOME OF YOU MIGHT BE THINKING, "SOMEDAY, I WANT TO VENTURE INTO SPACE."
REPLY IF YOU GET WHAT I'M SAYING!!
.....
WHY IS EVERYONE SO HYPED UP WHEN THAT SOUNDED REALLY TOUGH...
EH... EHH~~
GOOD.
YES!!

ONLY ME...

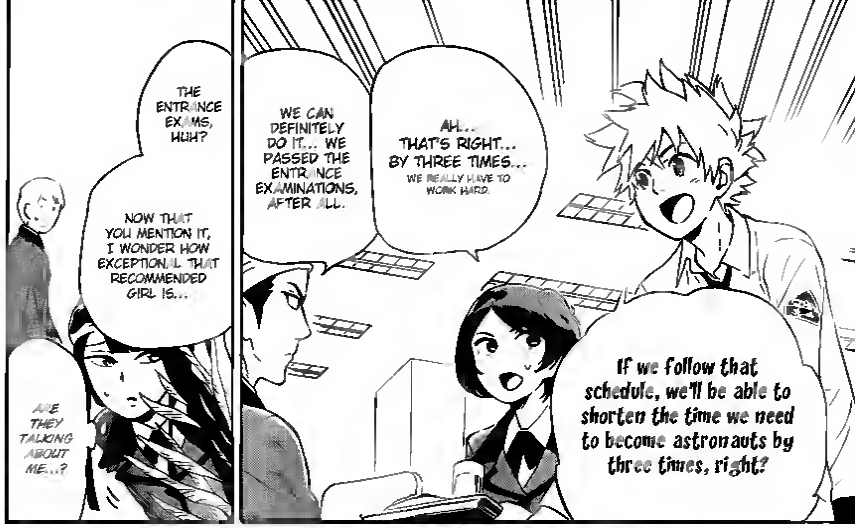
TH... THAT'S RIGHT. EVERYONE CAME HERE WITH THE AIM OF BECOMING AN ASTRONAUT...
THEY'RE DIFFERENT FROM ME. THE ONLY THING I WANT TO DO IS TO DECODE THE MESSAGE

AS I THOUGHT, SCHOOL IS...
...I'M ALL ALONE AGAIN...

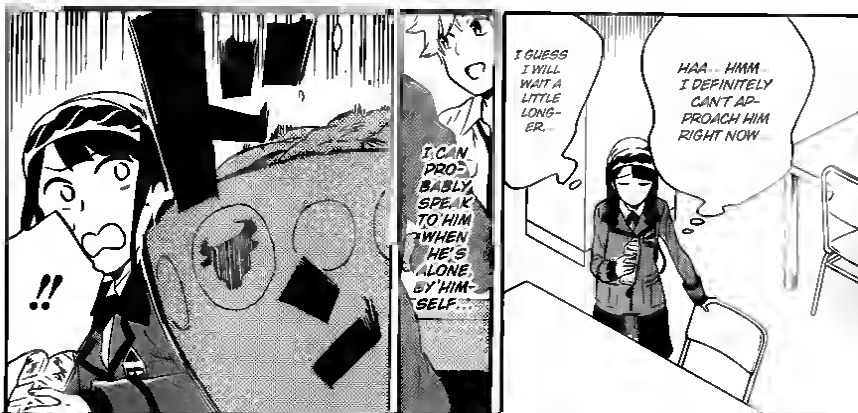

DON'T RELAX JUST BECAUSE IT'S THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.
WELL THEN, TRAINING WILL START AFTER LUNCH.
I WANT TO TALK TO THAT PERSON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE..


IT IT MIGHT BE A CHANCE TO TALK TO HIM !
BOW!
WELL THEN, THAT STUDENT OVER THERE, DISMISS THE CLASS
YES
STAND UP!
EH...
LUNCH ?

食堂
わいわい
わいわい
わいわい
THAT'S RIGHT...
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO WALK INTO THAT CROWD AND TALK TO HIM...
ワイワイ
WHAT SHOULD I DO...
THE CURRICULUM EXPECTS US TO COMPLETE TASKS IN ONLY A THIRD OF THE TIME THEY NORMALLY TAKE
THEY'RE TOO MUCH~~
DID YOU GUYS SEE THAT...? THERE'S A ※ SYMBOL WRITTEN ON THE SIDE OF THE SCHEDULE NOTING WE HAVE TO RUN 10 KM EVERY MORNING...
BUT IF WE DO THAT...


THE ENTRANCE EXAMS, HUH?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I WONDER HOW EXCEPTIONAL THAT RECOMMENDED GIRL IS...
ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT ME...?
WE CAN DEFINITELY DO IT... WE PASSED THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS, AFTER ALL.
AH... THAT'S RIGHT... BY THREE TIMES...
WE REALLY HAVE TO WORK HARD.
If we follow that schedule, we'll be able to shorten the time we need to become astronauts by three times, right?

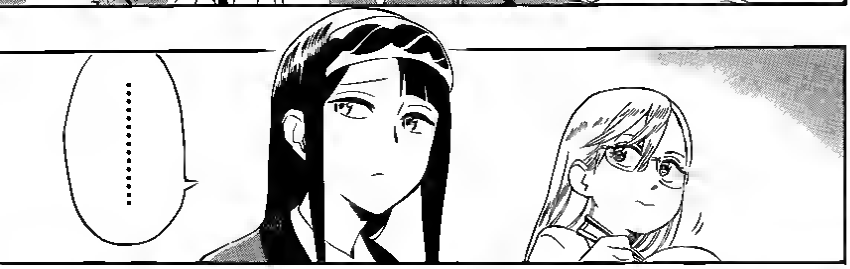
EH . EHHHH~~~~ WHY?? I DON'T WANT THAT!!
MARKA, SIT DOWN
ぎゅ!
I'll be taking her on as a worthy competitor! I'm going to become the number one student in this Japanese Academy.
Maho, are you an idiot? She must be a really amazing person! Definitely!


!!
I CAN PROBABLY SPEAK TO HIM WHEN HE'S ALONE BY HIMSELF...
I GUESS I WILL WAIT A LITTLE LONGER...
HAA... HMM I DEFINITELY CAN'T APPROACH HIM RIGHT NOW

週刊少年ジャンプ
CO... COLLINS-SAN.
YOU CAN'T JUST DRINK TEA AND NOT EAT ANYTHING!
I'M GLAD THAT YOU STAYED HERE I ACTUALLY THOUGHT THAT YOU SECRET-LY WENT BACK.
A.. ABOUT THAT-
NOTHING WILL CHANGE, EVEN IF I GO BACK TO THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE NOW.....
I SEE.....
HEY, IZUMI.....
EARLIER, YOU WERE SAYING THAT...
"HE'S THE SAME AS ME." WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
TH...
THAT IS...

THAT PERSON, SHIRAFUNE MAHO IS...
MAY I ASK...
FORGET IT... YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME ANYTHING IF YOU DON'T WANT TO...
EH?
YOU DON'T ANSWER OTHER PEOPLE'S QUESTIONS, YET YOU EXPECT THEM TO ANSWER YOURS.
キッ
YOU'RE TOO CUNNING, IZUMI!
SFX: HUMPH
HOW... HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT...
フーン
ASK HIM PERSONALLY IF YOU WANT TO KNOW ANYTHING!

TAKE A LOOK, THERE ARE ONLY 10 M BETWEEN THE BOTH OF YOU.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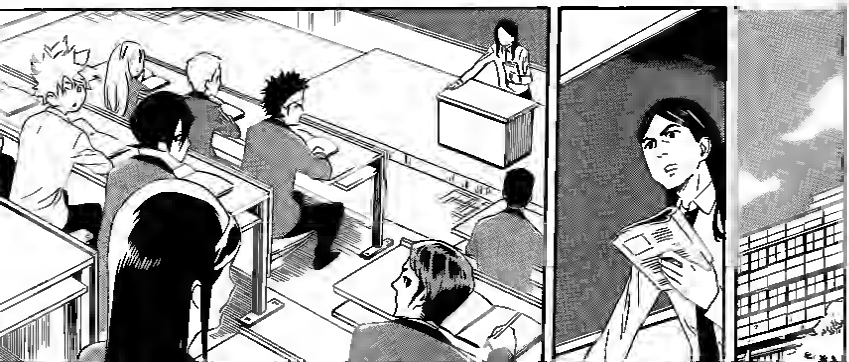
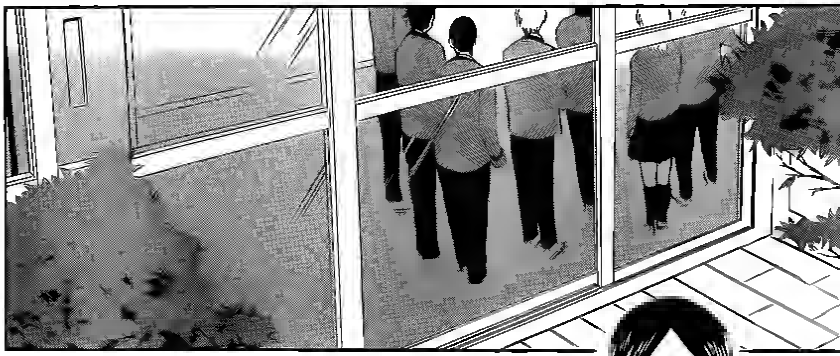


HAA...
NO WAY, NO WAY, NO WAY...
女子更衣室
IT'S DEFINITELY IMPOSSIBLE..!!
THERE'S NO WAY MY BODY CAN TAKE IT WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING...
ALTHOUGH THE LECTURES ARE EASIER THAN IMAGINED,
THAT WILL ONLY CAUSE ME TO GAIN MORE ATTENTION ENOUGH NO MORE ALREADY
BUT...
I REALLY WANT TO TALK TO THAT PERSON...
I HAVEN'T HAD ANY INTEREST IN ANOTHER PERSON...
WHAT AM I LIKE THIS NOW...
RIGHT... MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE BY DOING SO THE PROGRESS OF DECODING THE MESSAGE WILL BE HASTENED...?
OR NOT...?
What's next? A special class?

YEAH. IT SEEMS TO STRETCH OVER THREE PERIODS. I WONDER WHAT CLASS IS IT.
UWAH! WE'LL BE HAVING THIS CLASS EVERY DAY!!
SPECIAL CLASS...?
SPECIAL... IT'S PROBABLY MORE DIFFICULT THAN THE OTHER CLASSES
AHH...
WITH HOW THINGS ARE GOING, I WILL NEVER GET A CHANCE TO TALK TO HIM...



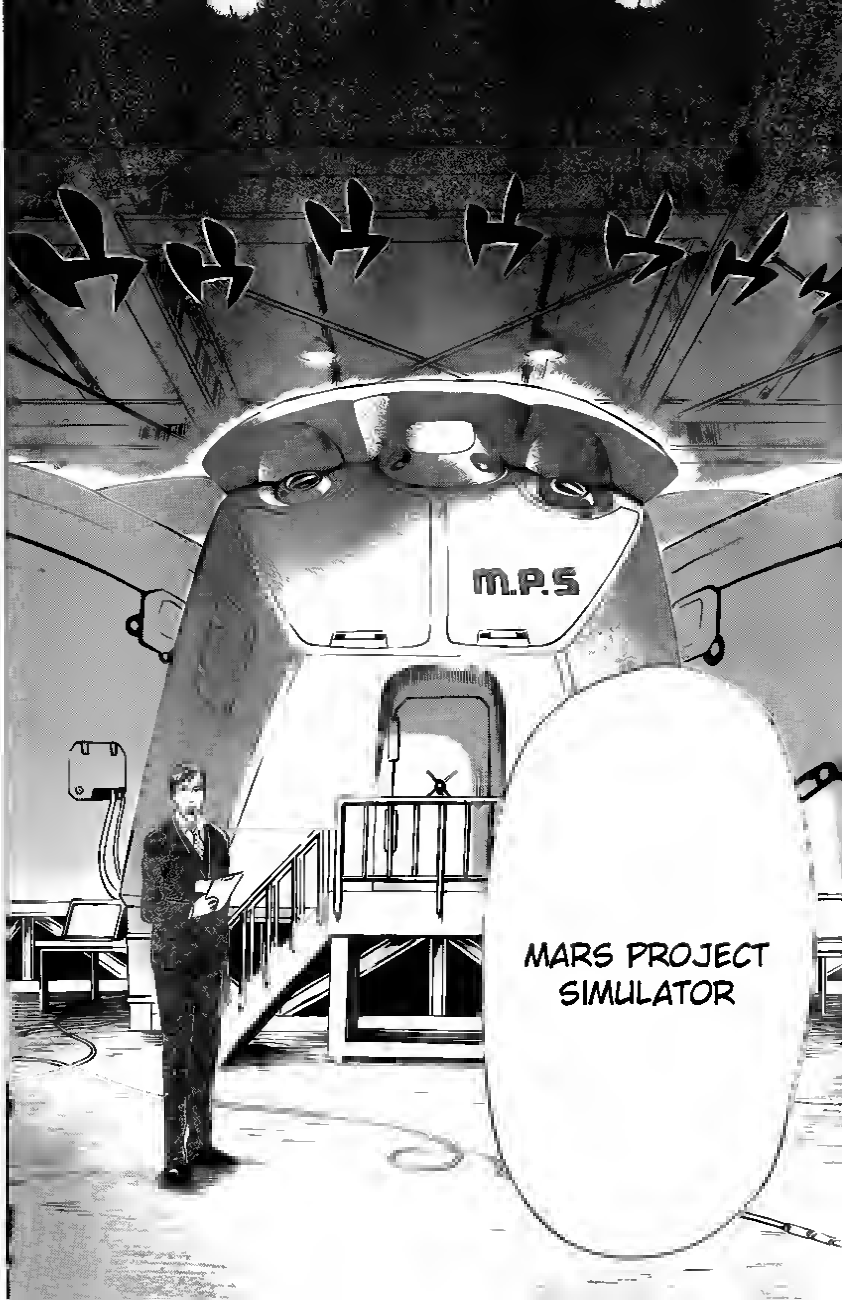
ALL RIGHT—
EVERYONE IS HERE, RIGHT?
FROM NOW ON, WE WILL BE CARRYING OUT THE SPECIAL CLASS USING THE FACILITIES HERE.
FIRST OF ALL —

EH... GROUPS?
I WILL ANNOUNCE THE PREDETERMINED GROUPS.
THE SPECIAL CLASS REQUIRES ALL OF YOU TO WORK WITH SOME EQUIPMENT. THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF SIX GROUPS AND ALL OF YOU WILL BE WORKING IN GROUPS OF THREES
THE FIRST GROUP WILL BE ——
IN THAT CASE...
THREE IN A GROUP..?
AMACHI, CHIGUSA, MARKA!
IF I CAN BE IN THE SAME GROUP AS THAT PERSON..!
FUKAMI, TSUCHIGAMI, NAKAGAWARA!
YES!
THE FIFTH GROUP!
YES!

!
FOR... FOR REAL?!
MIKURA!
Yes!
SHIRAFUNE,
HOSHIHARA,

!!
Please give us your guidance from now on!
Let's do our best together!
THE SAME GROUP AS HIM...! FOR REAL...!?
YEAH.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME WE'LL BE SEPARATED FROM AMACHI-KUN.
MAHO, ME... AND THAT PERSON!

AH... YES!
PLEASE ALSO HELL ME ALONG THE WAY!
EHHH
Hahaha! You don't have to be so polite towards Maho!
AH... PLEASE HELP ME ALONG THE WAY...!
I SAY IT WRONG...!
BUT...
WITH THIS, I WILL DEFINITELY GET A CHANCE TO TALK TO HIM...!!
じ〜〜っ
SINCE WE'RE IN THE SAME TEAM, I WILL DEFINITELY GET A CHANCE TO TALK TO HIM...!!
……!?
SFX: STARE
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
!
WELL THEN, GO IN THIS ROOM NOW.
FOR THIS, YOU GUYS ARE REQUIRED TO ——


M.P.S
MARS PROJECT
SIMULATOR

I BELIEVE ALL OF YOU HAVE HEARD THAT A CHAIR APPEARED ON THE SURFACE OF MARS THREE MONTHS AGO...
THE THING I'M GOING TO SAY NEXT HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY.
MARS...!?
MARS PROJECT SIMULATOR?
A PROBLEM HAS ARISEN AT THAT LOCATION.
EH...?!
BUT WE WOULD ALSO LIKE ALL OF YOU TO WORK ON THIS PROBLEM USING THE MARS PROJECT SIMULATOR!!
AND THE CHILDREN ARE...!!
ST&RS IS TRYING TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM RIGHT NOW...
ST&RS-スターズ-
STEP 15/ END

Clockwork Lies
Muda Scantrad
RAW Vicissitude
TRANSLATOR -ALT-
PR xxxkuxx
CLEANERS Mistin, Xeno, Kageblitzer, Exaner, Redhood-kun, Qaz
TYPESETTER redfox, xxxkuxx, Kageblitzer
QC Kuro, Qaz
STARS
HTTP://CLOCKWORKLIES.COM #CW-LIES@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET
HTTP://MUDASCANTRAD.COM #MUDA-SCANLATIONS@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET

EVERYONE JUST STAY HERE UNTIL THE SETUP IS COMPLETE.
EH...
THAT'S RIGHT!
WE WILL CLARIFY THE CONTENT OF THE TRAINING AS WELL AS THE PROBLEM ON MARS WHEN ALL OF YOU ARE INSIDE THE MPS*.
WE .. WE'RE ON THE SAME TEAM, RIGHT...?
WI-... WILL I BE ABLE TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH HIM ?
Mikura-san!

STEP 16: THE SKY OF MARS

NOTE MARS PROJECT SIMULATOR

STORY: TAKEUCHI RYOUSUKE ART: MIYORAWA YMASARU

Okay!
Well then, let's start with a self-introduction.

Meguro, over here!
!

AH.. YES. ME TOO..
NICE TO MEET YOU!

NO... NO... IT'S ALL RIGHT...
SORRY ABOUT THAT THIS FELLOW'S MANNERS HAVE BEEN LACKING EVEN WAY IN THE PAST

MARS..
IN THE PAST..

Hmm, I'm Shirafune Maho!
My wish is to go to Space and meet the extraterrestrial beings!

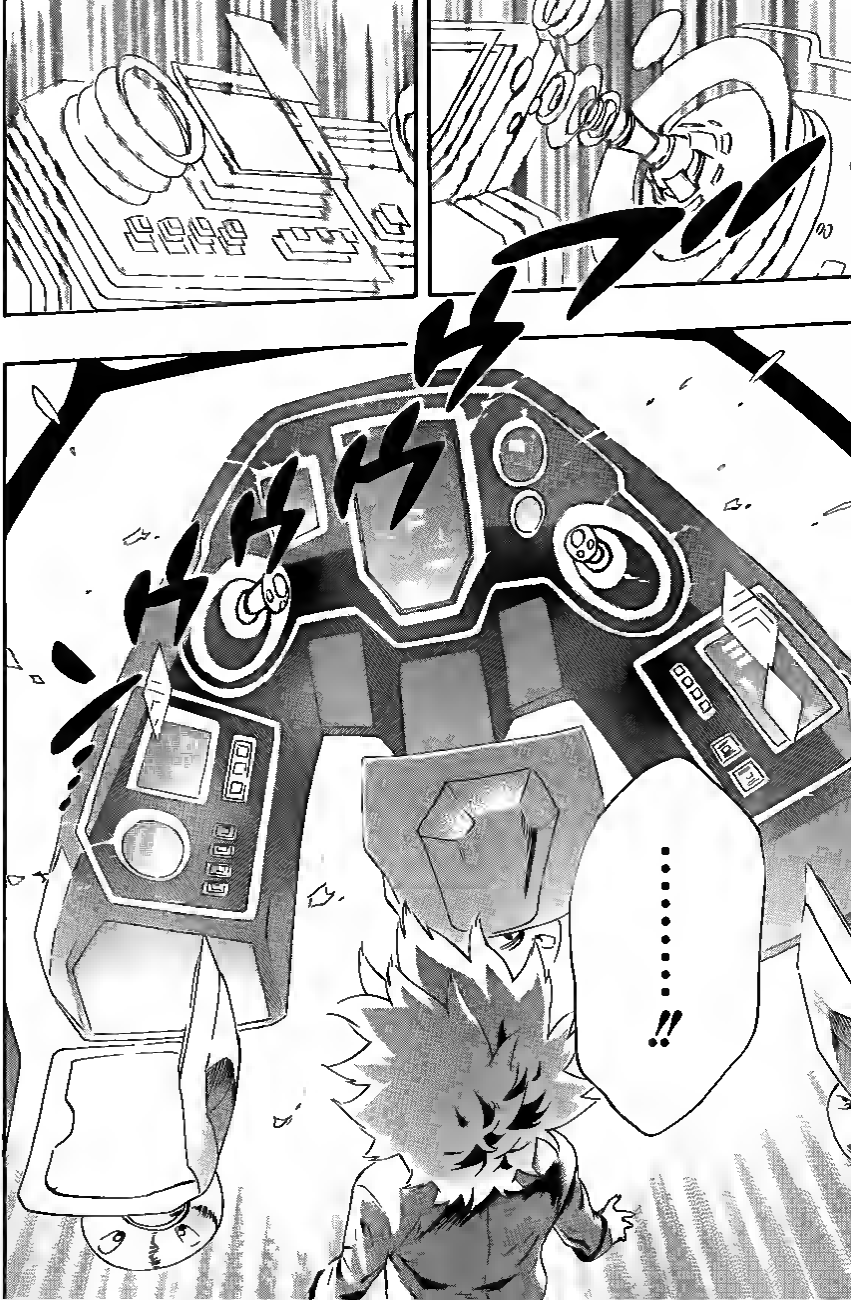
I'm Hoshihara Meguro and a childhood friend of Maho.
Nice to meet you!
Since I've made my way into this academy, I've decided to work hard and become an astronaut.
YE... YES.
BOTH OF YOU HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A LONG TIME?
WELL, WE WERE BORN IN THE SAME HOSPITAL... BUT I WAS BORN A DAY EARLIER.
SO THEY'RE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS. THAT'S WHY THEY'RE CALLING EACH OTHER BY THEIR FIRST NAMES...
IT SEEMS LIKE THEY HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP...
I REALLY HOPE THAT I CAN SPEAK TO HIM LIKE THAT, TOO...
AH, THERE'S ANOTHER PERSON WHO CAME FROM THE SAME MIDDLE SCHOOL AS THEM.
THAT PERSON, NAMED AMACHI, WHO'S BEING ASSIGNED TO ANOTHER TEAM.
That person
It's not easy being allocated to the same team as Mikura-san.
I hope to become friends with you!

EH... AH... OKAY...
BECOME...
FRIENDS...?
WITH ME...!?
WH.. WHAT SHOULD I DO...!
I'M OVER-JOYED...!!
...? MIKURA-SAN?
YE..YES. I'M ALL RIGHT ABOUT THAT...
UH I HAVE TO INTRODUCE MYSELF, TOO..
HMM, I'M—
THE SETUP IS COMPLETED. ALL TEAMS PLEASE PROCEED THERE NOW
AH.. THEY'RE ASKING US TO GO IN
!!
EHH.. I SHOULD HAVE SAID IT EA-RLIER..

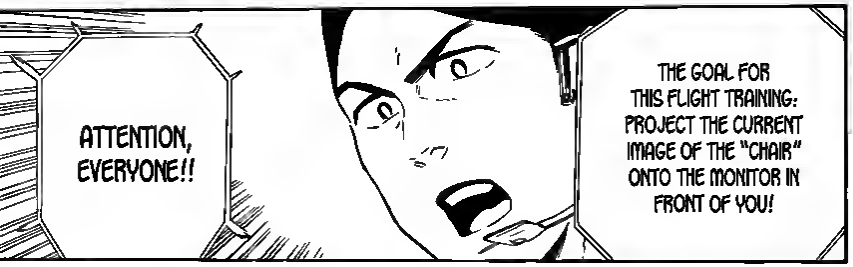
ガゴン
LATER. THAT'S RIGHT... WE'RE IN THE SAME TEAM AFTER ALL.
THERE WILL BE LOTS OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR US TO TALK. !
Mikura-san,
tell me more about yourself after this!
Things like what do you like etc
O... OKAY!
!
.....
!!

Uwah... look, look!!
SO THIS IS THE SIMULATOR? IT'S AMAZING...
IT'S MARS...!!
AND NOW, LET'S PROCEED TO EXPLAIN THE CONTENT OF THIS TRAINING!
BUT... WHAT ARE THEY TRYING TO DO BY PROJECTING MARS ONTO THE SCREEN...

THROUGH THE MPS, ALL OF YOU WILL BE LEARNING HOW TO OPERATE THE EQUIPMENT YOU NEED FOR THE MARS PROJECT AND FOR VENTURING INTO SPACE!
YOU WILL BE LEARNING HOW TO HANDLE ALL KINDS OF THINGS, FROM ROVERS TO SPACE SHIPS. FOR TODAY, ALL OF YOU WILL BE LEARNING
HOW TO OPERATE THE AIRCRAFT USED IN THE EXPLORATION OF THE MARS' SURFACE!
Aircraft! We'll be flying an aircraft!
IN THIS ROOM...? BUT THERE'S NOTHING AT ALL...?
YOU'LL BE OPERATING IT FROM HERE.
EH...?
.....!!


ドン
ドドド
……!!

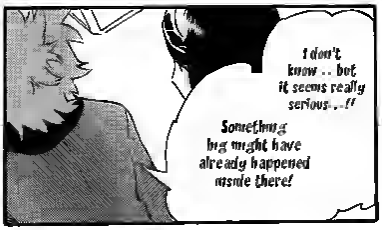
IN ADDITION...
BUT... WE CAN'T ACTUALLY TOUCH THIS, CAN WE...? IT'S JUST A HOLOGRAM, RIGHT?
AMAZING...! THERE'S THE CONTROL PANEL!!

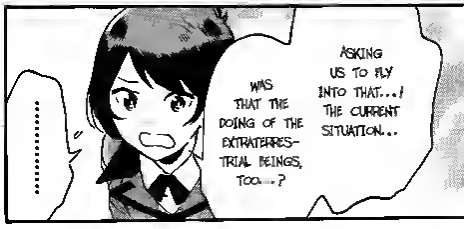

ATTENTION, EVERYONE!!
THE GOAL FOR THIS FLIGHT TRAINING: PROJECT THE CURRENT IMAGE OF THE "CHAIR" ONTO THE MONITOR IN FRONT OF YOU!

THAT'S ...!?
THE GOAL...
WHAT'S THAT...!?
THE PLACE WITH A "PROBLEM" REFERS TO THE PLACE WHERE THE "CHAIR" IS, RIGHT...?

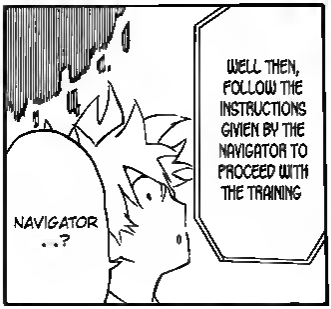
.....!!
THIS IS THE LAST IMAGE CAPTURED BY THE ROVER THAT STRUGGLED TO GET THERE.
IT'S JUST LIKE ALL OF YOU ARE SEEING RIGHT NOW. A HUGE TORNADO AND SANDSTORM HAVE ENVELOPED THE ENTIRE REGION. WE HAVE NO IDEA OF THE SITUATION CURRENTLY WITHIN IT.
WHAT'S STRANGE IS THAT WE CAN'T DETECT ANYTHING BY USING THE RADIO WAVES AND THERMO-OPTIC TECHNIQUES, EVEN THOUGH THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONDUCT OBSERVATIONS FROM OUTSIDE THE TORNADO

I WANT ALL THE TEAMS TO TRY AND THINK OF A WAY TO DETECT THE SITUATION OF THE CHAIR INSIDE THE TORNADO AS YOU UNDERGO THE FLIGHT TRAINING!!
LISTEN UP! ALL OF YOU ARE ALREADY MEMBERS OF ST&RS!
WE'RE CURRENTLY DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO FIND A WAY OF DETECTING THE SITUATION WITHIN THE TORNADO...
FOR NOW, THE "CHAIR" IS A HIGHER PRIORITY THAN "THE PROMISED DATE"...


I don't know... but it seems really serious...!!
Something big might have already happened inside there!


.....
WAS THAT THE DOING OF THE EXTRATERRESTRIAL BEINGS, TOO...?
ASKING US TO FLY INTO THAT...! THE CURRENT SITUATION...

.....!


WELL THEN, FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY THE NAVIGATOR TO PROCEED WITH THE TRAINING
NAVIGATOR...?

But that makes me want to go there even more now!
To Mars!!

I'M MARS-KUN, THE SUPPORT AI FOR THIS MPS.
WH... WHAT'S THIS THING OVER HERE...
LISTEN UP—
STAFF SERIOUSLY HAS NO DECENT CHARACTER DESIGN AT ALL...
WAH!!
HERE—
STARTING NOW, YOU WILL BE LEARNING HOW TO PILOT THE AIRCRAFT THAT WILL BE USED IN THE MPS.
THE VERY FIRST GOAL IS TO TAKE OFF SUCCESSFULLY!
FOLLOWED BY THAT, ALL OF YOU WILL HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO REACH THE INSIDE OF THE TORNADO. THIS IS ALSO YOUR SECOND GOAL!
BUT... BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO DRIVE A CAR...
NO WORRIES! JUST PRETEND THAT YOU'RE PLAYING A GAME INSTEAD!
PUT ON THE GLOVES AND SHOES THAT HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR YOU!
.....

!

Wow! Wow! This is awesome!
Even though this is a hologram, I can actually feel it!
IN ANY CASE, JUST GIVE IT A TRY!
ALTHOUGH I WILL BE NAVIGATING TODAY, PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT THE SUPPORT HAS MANY THINGS TO DO AS WELL.
YOU HAVE TO AID THE PILOT IN NAVIGATION AND KEEP THE METER UNDER CONSTANT CHECKS!
YES IT CAN PROJECT THE ENTIRE PLANET OF MARS AND ALSO THE TRAINING MODULES!
THIS FEELS WEIRD... CAN THE MPS PROJECT THINGS OTHER THAN AIRCRAFTS?

WHICH PLANE WOULD YOU LIKE TO USE?
Hmm~ there are too many of them. I'll take this one then!
OK! LET'S SET OFF.
Yeah!
LOADING...
ALL RIGHT, LET'S FLY
TO THE SKY OF MARS!!

OHH HHHH HHH
Let's go flying up in Mars' sky!!
Lo... look! That mountain is huge...!
It's Mt. Olmypus!! This is so cool!!
EH HH HH ...!?
The largest mountain in the solar system...
UH...
ENOUGH. I WILL TAKE OVER!!
SO... SORRY. I WAS WRONG...
A... ABOUT THAT...
EHHHHH! THAT'S FAST!!
OR SHOULD I SAY THAT YOU'RE TERRIBLE AT THIS!!
EH...?
PLANE CRASH...

I DON'T THINK IT'S POSSIBLE TO FLY ON MARS USING A PLANE THAT'S MEANT FOR FLYING ON EARTH...!!
!
WHY IS THAT?

I HAVE TO SAY THIS PROPERLY !
TH... THEY ARE LISTENING TO MY OPINION ..!
O...OKAY. THAT'S BECAUSE... THE GRAVITY ON MARS IS A THIRD OF THAT ON EARTH... AND THE ATMOSPHERIC DENSITY IS ONLY ONE HUNDREDTH...

THE WINGS OF THE PLANE HAVE TO BE SPECIALLY MADE... A THIRD OF THE LIFTING POWER WOULD BE GOOD...
B.. BUT IT'S NOT EASY TO ACCOMPLISH ANY OF THAT...
.....
TO ACHIEVE THAT, WE CAN TRY TO EXPAND THE SURFACE AREA OF THE WINGS BY THIRTY-THREE TIMES .. OR REDUCE THE WEIGHT OF IT TO ONE THIRTY-THIRD OF THE CURRENT WEIGHT... IF NOT .. TAKING THE SQUARE ROOT OF THIRTY-THREE TIMES ..WE HAVE TO INCREASE THE FLYING VELOCITY BY SIX TIMES ..
!!
THAT'S RIGHT!!

FIRST OF ALL, LET'S TRY TO BUILD A PLANE THAT CAN FLY ON MARS!
IT'S POSSIBLE TO SIMULATE ANY KIND OF MATERIAL IN THIS MPS.
All right!
Let's discuss the details now!!
Mikura-san, you have to voice your opinion more often, all right?
!
YOU'RE PLANNING TO DEPEND ON MIKURA-SAN FOR THIS TASK, RIGHT!?
I WASN'T THINKING ABOUT THAT AT ALL!
I...
I...!
MARS..., HEART... THE SHORTENING DISTANCE...

MUDA SCANS
IS
WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK
TRANSLATORS
CLEANERS
TYPESETTERS
PROOFERS
QUALITY CHECKERS
RAW-PROVIDERS
JOIN OUR FORUMS!
RECRUITING NEW POSITIONS
ANYONE IS WELCOME
MAKING THIS PAGE TOOK SO LONG!!!
WE HAVE COOKIES!
#MUDA-SCANLATIONS @ IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET
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